

The Mindset of Life and Death

Romans 8:5-9 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

❖ Recap

➤ Romans 8:1-2

- No Condemnation for those in Christ Jesus - Set Free from sin and death by the Spirit of Life

➤ Romans 8:3-4 God has done the Work

- God was able to do what the law couldn't do
 - He was able to destroy death
- **The law was weakened by the inability of our flesh**
 - So God sent His Son Jesus... in the same kind of flesh
 - Only He lived a perfect sinless life of Love
 - And when He died on the cross... He was destroying sin and death
- **This sacrifice made it so the requirements of the law of God would be fulfilled in...**
 - All those who come to Christ in faith
 - And those who are in Christ... Walk in the Spirit now...

❖ Today Paul Continues Teaching us...

- We move on to an understanding of walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit
 - Paul is going to show us the difference...
 - And He is going to show us the consequences of both...

❖ Outline:

- 1) The Mind Set on the Flesh Lives According to the Flesh
- 2) Setting Your Mind on the Flesh is Death
- 3) The Mind Set on the Spirit Lives According to the Spirit
- 4) Setting Your Mind on the Spirit is Life and Peace
- 5) The Mind of the Flesh is Hostile to God
- 6) The Mind of the Flesh Cannot Submit to God
- 7) The Mind of the Flesh Cannot Please God

❖ 1) The Mind Set on the Flesh Lives According to the Flesh

- **For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh,**
- **The Flesh- Sinful Nature – Worldly World View – Non God Centric Focus – Man Centric Focus**
 - This is a way of living that not “loving and delighting in God first above all things”
- **Both verbs are present here...**
 - **Live and set** - Those who **live** according to the flesh
 - They **set** their minds on the things of the flesh
- **But... It seems that the setting of the mind is the starting place**
 - And it leads to the “living” or “walking” in accord with the flesh...
- **Mindset... let's define it here... what does he mean?**
 - To dispose the mind in a certain way... it is a certain way of thinking
 - It is more than just a thought though...

- It is a deep rooted setting of the mind
- **Before Christ comes into a person's life...**
 - This is their mindset... and they honestly cannot help being this way...
 - **1 Corinthians 2:14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.**
 - Notice that this type of person just doesn't accept the things of the Spirit of God
 - ◆ Doesn't mean they aren't "spiritual" in the sense of this world's spiritualism
 - ◆ There are all sorts of belief systems in this world...
 - ◆ Here, it is the things of the Spirit of God...
 - ◆ This natural person does not accept it
 - ◆ And as we will see later, they can't
- So... the person with a mind set on fleshly things... will walk in a fleshly or worldly manner

❖ 2) Setting Your Mind on the Flesh is Death

- **⁶For to set the mind on the flesh is death,**
- **Question: What is Death?**
 - **Flesh is the presence of death**
 - Death means dying... but it can mean more than just your physical death
 - **God promised Adam and Eve: If you disobey my command...**
 - And eat from the tree I told you not to... You will surely die
 - **Satan comes along and tells them they will not die...**
 - They eat... but they do not die right away
 - But, we see something died that day
 - And death would forever wait on the human race
 - **A mind set of the flesh is a mind set on sin...**
 - A mind set on the flesh is death
 - **There are two kinds of dying...**
 - One is your physical body dying and you departing this world
 - The other is the second death... and it is a far worse death...
- **Death is coming to us all...**
 - **The question we must ask is...**
 - How many deaths will I die?
 - **Revelation 20:13-15 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. ¹⁴Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**
 - The second death is for those who had the mind set on the flesh while living
 - The mind set on the flesh is death

❖ 3) Living According to the Spirit Sets Your Mind on the Things of the Spirit

- **but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.**
- **Paul continues by contrasting fleshly living with Spirit living**
- **Here... the words are the same... and the connection is the same...**
 - Setting the mind on the things of the Spirit...
 - Means the person will be living their lives in accord with the Spirit...
- **How does this happen though?**
 - How does a person go from a sinful mindset to a Spirit mindset...

- Well... that is a work of God my friend
- And without God working... the person will stay in the mindset of the flesh
- The flesh mindset is our default mindset... we are born with it...
- And we can not get out of it on our own...
- **Jesus tells us that we must be born again...**
 - And what He means is that we must be born of the Spirit
 - And how does that happen?
- **1) The Gospel happened... Jesus came and lived a perfect life**
 - He died for the sins of the world, thus paying for them
 - And He resurrected with power over death
- **2) This gospel is then preached by those God with the Spirit...**
 - It began with the disciples and continued to all who believed...
- **3) The gospel is preached and the Spirit is at work in the heart of the hearer**
 - He is telling them that the gospel is true and they must believe
- **4) A person then repents of their sins and wrong belief about Jesus**
 - And they put their Faith in Jesus Christ as they heard in the gospel
- **5) This person is born again!**
 - The Spirit comes to live within him... never to leave him all his days...
- So... to have our minds set on the Spirit... we must first have the Spirit.

❖ 4) Setting Your Mind on the Spirit is Life and Peace

- **but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.**
- Question: What is Life and Peace?
 - The Spirit is the presence of Life and Peace
 - Life is Eternal Life... and it comes from Jesus
 - Peace is Peace with God
- **What does it mean to have a mind set on the Spirit**
 - A Mind Set on Christ – Adopted and Accepted and Loved as Children...
 - A mind set on Christ is the catalyst for Holy Living.
 - This mindset reacts with the Spirit indwelling within us.
- **Life and Peace Happen for those with this mindset**
 - Their Spiritual life is growing... They are at peace with God
- **Why did we need life? Remember Adam and Eve's Sin... they brought death upon us all**
 - And we perpetuated this death by continuing in sin
 - **Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins**
- **Why did we need peace? We were at war with God Almighty... Enemies**
 - **Colossians 1:21 ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,**
 - We were not God's friends were we?
 - **Please remember... any amount of rebellion is rebellion...**
 - Do not think lightly on your heart that was against God...
 - Bring to mind how even now... that flesh wants to still rise up right?
 - It has been defeated but it still lingers until you go to be with Jesus
 - Stare deeply into its desires... you will see how hostile to God it is...

❖ 3 Characteristics of the mind of the Flesh – The Mind before the Spirit

- **Please take into consideration... this is why we need the Spirit so badly**
- **We have no ability on our own to get past these characteristics of the flesh**

❖ 5) The Mind of the Flesh is Hostile to God

- **7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God,**
- The mind set of the flesh is to be hostile to God...
 - That is its nature... it originates from Satan himself
- Hostile means ill will or hatred
 - This is a very serious situation isn't it?
- Sadly men do not even realize how hostile to God they are...
 - But, they are against Him... they are at war with Him
 - This is also why man can not reform themselves to God...

❖ 6) The Mind of the Flesh Cannot Submit to God

- **for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.**
- **Submit means to be under the control of something or someone**
 - To obey
- **Notice here also...**
 - Paul says it Cannot... it is unable...
 - **I want you to see two things here:**
 - 1) If you are a Christian this morning... you better give ALL GLORY to God
 - ◆ because he got past your disabilities
 - 2) If you are not a Christian... you cannot submit to God on your own...
 - ◆ You need the drawing of the Spirit of God
- **The mind of the flesh is not to obey God**
 - Even when they do right things... they are still against God...
 - I'll illustrate this in the next point...

❖ 7) The Mind of the Flesh Cannot Please God

- **8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**
- Illustration:
 - Consider yourself the king of an army...
 - And there is another army that has come against you and your land
 - And within this army of enemies... many of them are really good soldiers
 - They put their uniform on right... the wake up on time
 - They march correctly... they keep their shoes polished
 - They go about their tasks with focus
 - Are you as king pleased with these enemy combatants?
 - Are you at peace with them...
- **This is why... people can do all sorts of "good" things while on this earth**
 - Yet still not be pleasing to God...
 - How can a person in rebellion against God be pleasing to Him?
 - By feeding the poor? Adopting the orphan?
 - God is still not pleased because that person is living in rebellion...
 - And no amount of good works will overcome that...
 - God has called the person to repentance and faith...
 - And until they answer the call of the Spirit first... the other things they do will not please God
- **Those who are in the flesh CANNOT please God!**

❖ Let me Skip Forward a bit...

- When the Spirit comes to dwell within the person...

- The mind of the flesh does not have this kind of control anymore...
- The Spirit makes it possible that we not be hostile to God...
 - He makes it possible for us to submit to God
 - He makes it possible for us to please God
- We must be born again... We must repent and believe when we hear the Gospel...

❖ **Application:**

- **Can Christians walk in accord with the flesh? If so... what does that mean...**
 - **Yes and no...**
 - **No in the sense that walking in the flesh is not your nature anymore...**
 - You walk in the spirit...
 - **Yes in the sense that you can go back to your old way of thinking...**
 - Although you walk in the Spirit
 - It does not mean you do not think on fleshly things...
 - **If you do walk with a mind set on the flesh...**
 - You will not experience the life and peace God is offering you while on this earth
 - Your destination is set... you have been given eternal life...
 - **But... when you set your mind on fleshly things...**
 - Guess what shows up in your life? DEATH!
 - Death and destruction always follow the flesh
 - **When your mind is set on the things of the Spirit however...**
 - Which is not possible once the Holy Spirit comes to live within the believer
 - Flesh does not have control over your nature like it did before..
 - When your mind is set on the Spirit... Life and Peace come...
 - So you experience Spiritual Life and Peace while living on this earth
- **This is so practical...**
 - **Think on it for a second...**
 - **When you have minded Spiritual Things...**
 - ◆ When you have set your mind on who you are in Christ
 - ◆ When you set your mind on heavenly things
 - ◆ What happens? Your growing right... you feel much better within
 - ◆ You feel more spiritual... you feel more at peace with God
 - ◆ You want to do things that bring about life... you care more about the things of God
 - ◆ You are living out the things of God
 - **When you have minded fleshly things...**
 - ◆ **What happens? You do not feel at peace with God do you...**
 - ◆ **You are in turmoil... you stop worrying about things like:**
 - Evangelism, and giving and serving
 - You become very self focused...
 - There is a stench of death in the air isn't there?

❖ **Transition to Next Week:**

❖ **Hope For All People: The Indwelling Spirit**

- **⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.**

❖ **Invitation**

- **Do you need to be born again?**