



ROMANS 8:5-9

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you.

ROMANS 8:12-13

12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation – but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

NOTES FOR LEADERS

Please remind your group of these upcoming events:

1. Baby Dedication on the 12th of November
2. Water Baptism on the 19th of November

Sign-up can be done on the website or by contacting the church office.

START TALKING

1. What stood out to you from Sunday's message? What challenged you or encouraged you?
2. What has God been doing in your world - what can we celebrate?

START THINKING

1. Read Romans 8:5-9. If you were explaining this passage to someone who was new to the Bible, how do you think you would explain it? What does it mean to you?
2. On Sunday, Steve asked us to pick one word from this list and ask the Holy Spirit to help us have more of that in our lives: **Forgiveness, Peace, Joy, Freedom, Generosity, Humility, Care for others, Truthfulness, Kindness, Purity**. Which word did you (or would you) choose and why?

START SHARING

1. Consider the list of "misdeeds of the flesh": **Bitterness, Anger, Unforgiveness, Greed, Selfishness, Pride, Lust, Dishonesty, Gossip, Stealing, Hatred, Sexual sin**.
 - a. Which of these is causing you the most difficulty at present?
 - b. How is the Holy Spirit helping you to live differently?
2. How have you personally experienced the leadership of the Spirit in your life?
 - a. Can you share specific examples where the Spirit guided you away from bad attitudes, thinking or actions? ("The misdeeds of the flesh.")
 - b. What practices or disciplines do you find helpful in allowing the Spirit to lead your thoughts and actions?

START PRAYING

Heavenly Father, may Your Holiness capture our hearts and mould our character. Shape our lives to reflect your righteousness and mercy. We want to be led and transformed by Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

START DOING

On Sunday, Steve said that our one obligation is to, by the Spirit, put to death the misdeeds of the body. Is there something God is highlighting to you on this list: **Bitterness, Anger, Unforgiveness, Greed, Selfishness, Pride, Lust, Dishonesty, Gossip, Stealing, Hatred, Sexual sin**? Is there something else? Spend time with God and identify what in your life needs to be "put to death", then set in place an action plan to do it.

This Sunday, Steve shared an empowering message in part 2 of our Romans 8 series.

Arguably, the most famous painting in the world, the Mona Lisa, is uninsurable because it is considered irreplaceable. By law, it cannot be sold. It's possible to be standing right in front of such a work of art and not understand the significance or value of the masterpiece. The same can be said of scripture.

The Mona Lisa pales into insignificance next to the amazing chapter that we are studying over five weeks: Romans 8. It has been said that the book of Romans is the Himalayas of the Bible, and if it is the Himalayas, then Romans 8 is surely Mt Everest. Invite you to read chapter 8 all in one go and let it impact you.

Dusty shared a message from Romans 8:1-2 last week: *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.*

Nothing in chapter 7 prepares you for this grand announcement - not condemned if I am in Christ Jesus.

This Sunday's text comes from Romans 8:5-9. *5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.*

6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you.

Paul describes two kingdoms in this passage - the Kingdom of the Spirit and the kingdom of the flesh.

We find three truths in this passage:

1. Two Positions: "the flesh" & "the Spirit"

"the flesh"	"the Spirit"
<i>(carnal, sinful nature, 'sarx')</i>	
Mind set on what the flesh desires	Mind set on what the Spirit desires
Unsubmitted to God's law	Submitted
Hostile to God	Loved
Death outside of Christ	Life in Christ

2. One Rescuer: Christ

We couldn't do it by ourselves. We were trapped. He rescues us. *...because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.* Romans 8:2

3. One Obligation:

In Romans 8:12-13, Paul says that we have an obligation: *12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation - but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.*

Our one obligation: by the Spirit, put to death the misdeeds of the body.

How do we do this?

1. The Leadership of the Spirit:

...the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. Romans 8:6.

Some of the misdeeds of the flesh: Bitterness, Anger, Unforgiveness, Greed, Selfishness, Pride, Lust, Dishonesty, Gossip, Stealing, Hatred, Sexual sin.

The mind governed by the Spirit: Forgiveness, Peace, Joy, Freedom, Generosity, Humility, Care for others, Truthfulness, Kindness, Purity.

Last weekend was a massive highlight for South Africans around the world when we won the Rugby World Cup. What does it take to be the winning team?

1. Committed players (Each committing to be the best they can be)
2. Leadership by coaching team (perhaps even more importantly!)
 - Analyse players wherever they play in the world
 - Guiding them as to what to do and what not to do
 - Sometimes players are picked, and others are not (Manie Libbok & Cobus Reinach - No. 9 & 10 for semi-finals - were not even on the bench in the finals).

The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. Romans 8:26. He uses our conscience, the Word of God, prayer, wise counsel... He lets us know!

2. The Life of the Spirit:

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. Romans 8:11.

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us and is filling us with the irresistible life of God!