

You Are Not in the Flesh, but in the Spirit

Rom 8.5 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, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. 8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

In this part of Rom 8, Paul is ensuring that we fully appreciate:

(1) That being in Christ Jesus means a complete change of the _____ we belong to, the power that rules over us, and indeed of our very identity; and (2) that such a radical change of status necessarily means a similar change in how we _____. Paul already intro'd these themes in vs 2 & 4.

Vs 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death ... 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Col 1.13 [The Father] has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of his love

In vs 5, “_____” is not there in the Greek; it simply says “those who are according to the flesh,” as opposed to “those who are according to the Spirit.” Paul is talking about our _____. Are we “in the flesh” or “in the Spirit”? In other words, what is the ruling power that has jurisdiction over us? Is it the flesh or the Spirit? Because that will tell us what kingdom are we in, the kingdom of darkness or the kingdom of the Son of God’s love.

“In the flesh” or “according to the flesh” refers to those who do not have the _____ dwelling in them; to those who are “in _____” as opposed to “in Christ”; to those who are fallen, and have not been regenerated by the Spirit.

In vs 6, Paul point is that the whole inner _____ of those in the flesh is shaped by one core reality—their

estrangement from God, which is the essence of _____.

Gen 2.7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed ... 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” ... 3.6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then ... they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden ..., and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God ... 21 Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. 22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”—23 therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden ...

When Adam ate of the forbidden tree, he died right away, even though he didn’t die physically until many years later. The death he experienced immediately was _____ death—loss of communion with God, which is central to what it means to be alive, and what it means to be _____. “Made in the image of God” means more than that we were created with certain capacities; it means we were created to _____ him, _____ with him, & _____ him. In short, we were created as his sons & daughters. That’s relationship language, because you cannot be a son or daughter without a _____. So relationship with God is bedrock; it is the _____ of life and everything it means to be human.

Life (“eternal life”) is the _____ of the relationship we were meant to have with God, so that we know God, and walk with him in faith, love, and obedience. That’s why Paul says in vs 6, that “to be spiritually minded is

_____ and _____.”

John 17.3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

In vs 7, the Greek word for “enmity” means a deep seated state of _____. Man in his fallen state is not neutral toward God, he is not open toward God; he is rather averse toward God, and has an antipathy toward God.

Rom 5.10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

What Adam chose became part of who he was, and of who we are. So Adam’s implicit renunciation of God became a permanent feature of the heart of fallen man.

With Cain & Abel, you can see that the motive for murder wasn’t animosity toward Abel directly; it was animosity toward _____. Cain couldn’t kill _____, so he killed the one who reminded him of _____.

Even when it’s just God’s fingerprints, fallen man wants to _____ them so that the one true God is completely out of mind. Fallen man is willing to worship all sorts of false gods, or to worship the _____ itself. But fallen man wants nothing to do with the true & living God.

Rom 1.20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and [divine nature], so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 3.11 “There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside ...” (quoting Psalm 14.2-3)

Re vs 7, Jesus teaches us that the law is 100% about loving God and neighbor. Fallen man, being governed and shaped by

estrangement from and hostility toward God, cannot and will not subject himself to the law of God in its true _____. He may be a religious man, and make great a show of keeping the law, but if you look closely, you will see that he is remaking God and his law to his own liking, even as the Pharisees did.

Mat 22.37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Mat 15.3 He answered and said to them, “Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?”

In vs 8, Paul is not saying fallen men are as _____ as they could be (not even Hitler was that). Nor is he saying fallen men never do anything we would approve of and commend (for most give birthday presents and help neighbors). But we have to remember that God created us as his sons and daughters. Apart from that relationship, it is impossible to _____ God, for the relationship is central to all else. Imagine a man abandoning his wife and children, running away, and joining the Kiwanis club. Are his wife and children pleased with him? Would they say that he is a good man?

In vs 9, Paul is not casting _____; he is assuring us. Everyone in Christ has the Spirit; and no one outside of Christ has the Spirit. As a _____, your inner man is no longer dominated and dictated by fallenness, by estrangement and hostility toward God. No, your inner man is set _____ and turned toward God by the Spirit. The application is obvious: Walk according to the Spirit, and say no to the flesh, because it’s not your _____ anymore. Walk with your Father. Believe him. Trust him. Love him. Imitate him.