**“The Flesh or The Spirit… Which is it?”** Text: Romans 8:5-11 Date: 9/25/2016 Sunday AM

Last Sunday we discussed Romans 8:1-4. We rejoiced in the fact that as God’s children *“there is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.”* Jesus said in **John 5:24** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

Today let’s look at **Romans 8:5-11**. You will notice a couple of phrases that are repeated over and over again! As we read, look for these words, *“who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* Those who walk “after the flesh” are unsaved. Before you became a believer you walked “after the flesh.” Now that you are a believer you “walk after the Spirit.” Your lifestyle is guided by “*the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus.”* (See 8:2) As we read, please notice the crucial differences between the **TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE!**

This is not to say that when you become a believer you will never sin again. **QUESTION:** Did you sin this week? Sure, we all sinned to one degree or another. **BUT, notice I said BUT, as a child of God, your lifestyle should not be dominated by sin.** Consider these statements:

* No one but Jesus is sinless.
* Jesus was perfect… Jesus never sinned… not even once!
* I have no righteousness of my own, neither do you.
* By faith, God declares me righteous. This is not based upon any righteousness of my own, but solely upon the righteousness of Jesus Christ, His Son!

Notice again, there are two ways of life being set forth in these verses. Some live “after the flesh” and others live “after the Spirit.”

Let’s read **Romans 8:5-11** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after 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, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. 10 And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.

**Now let’s notice THREE MAIN THOUGHTS:**

1. **FIRST, THE CHANGE – I Corinthians 6:9-11**

* **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
* **1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NLT)** Don’t you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who *indulge* in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10 or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 11 Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
* Paul gives us a list of sinful lifestyles. (In other places as well)
* He says that those who practice these lifestyles shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.
* **6:11** ~ Paul says, “AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU…”
* He says “and such **WERE** some of you.”
* Using the past tense Paul makes it clear that they had experienced a CHANGE. He emphasizes that the salvation that came to them was *“in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”*
* In other words, what they experienced came from God. It did not come from within themselves!
* **POINT:** When justification happens, sanctification begins!
* **2 Corinthians 5:17 says,** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
* **FIRST, THE CHANGE – I Corinthians 6:9-11**

1. **SECONDLY, THE CONTRAST – Colossians 3:1-11**

* **Colossians 3:1-11** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: 6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: 7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. 8 But now ye also **put off** all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. 9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have **put off** the old man with his deeds; 10 And have **put on** the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created Him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.

**Sometimes I look more like Adam than I do Jesus!**

* **3:8 ~ “Put off”**
* **3:9 ~ “Put off the old man”**
* **3:10 ~ “Put on the new man”**
* **3:12 ~ “Put on”**
* **POINT:** The *old man* is identified with sinful behaviors. The *new man* is identified with Christ-like behaviors which are the work of the Holy Spirit.
* We cannot change ourselves. The life of Christ in me and in you is not an accident. It is the intentional work of God’s Spirit whereby He makes us like Jesus!
* There should be an obvious difference in the way God’s people live and the way those who do not know Christ live!
* **FIRST, THE CHANGE – I Corinthians 6:9-11**
* **SECONDLY, THE CONTRAST – Colossians 3:1-11**

1. **THIRDLY, THE CHRIST-LIKENESS – Colossians 3:12-17**

* **Colossians 3:12-17** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering/patience (See Colossians 1:11); 13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also *do* ye. 14 And above all these things *put on* charity, which is the bond of perfectness. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.
* **Colossians 3:12-17 (NLT)** Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves; you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. 13 Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. 16 Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. 17 And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
* **Ephesians 4:31-32** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32  And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.
* **Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)** Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.
* Paul is instructing us on how we are to treat one another!
* **WHY** was Paul giving these instructions to these churches? (These letters circulated from church to church.)
* **Because** these things were happening in these churches and these brothers and sisters needed the reminder!
* **POINT:** Sometimes we don’t treat each other like we should. We too need to be reminded!
* **KEY:** To be sanctified means to be Christ-like!
* The proof of a genuine, growing, maturing relationship with the Lord is seen in the way we treat each other.
* **POINT:** The closer we are to Christ; the closer we will be to each other!

**Does what I have in my head always come out in my life?**

* **SUMMARY:** Let’s *put off* our vices, *put on* His virtues and treat each other in a Christ-like manner!
* **FIRST, THE CHANGE – I Corinthians 6:9-11**
* **SECONDLY, THE CONTRAST – Colossians 3:1-11**
* **THIRDLY, THE CHRIST-LIKENESS – Colossians 3:12-17**