

Romans 8:9–13

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.

¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

The Presence of the Holy Spirit ***Romans 8:9-13***

INTRO:

While this chapter begins with a triumphant promise, Paul warns us this assurance is not a call to spiritual laziness. Our great position shows us the dangerous conflict that continues in us. Paul did not write all of this about the Holy Spirit of God and the flesh because he wanted to fill pages. In our text today, the Apostle wrote about how the Holy Spirit of God works in us.

I. Who Has the Spirit Of God Dwelling in Them? (VERSE 9)

II. What the Spirit of God Does in Our Lives (VERSE 10-11).

III. How We Must Live (verses 12-13)

I. Who Has the Spirit Of God Dwelling in Them? (VERSE 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. “

A. In this verse the Apostle Paul drew a vital contrast between those who are in the flesh and cannot please God and the ones in the Spirit, who can please God. What does it mean to be in the Spirit?

“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.”

This is an exclusive group in that it does not contain those who have never been justified. Yet, those who are in the Spirit are those who have the Spirit dwelling in them.

B. Oh this is some special group of believers who've experienced a second work of grace, right? NO.

“Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

This is every believer. If we cannot be a believer, if the Spirit of Christ does not live in us, then no Christian can be without the Spirit of God in them. Paul wrote a very similar statement in **1 Corinthians 12:13**.

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Paul did not say, some Christians are baptized in the Holy Spirit, he said, all of them were.

II. What the Spirit of God Does in Our Lives (VERSE 10-11).

“And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”

A. Before we explore this point, we must look at the titles the Apostle Paul used interchangeably to describe the Holy Spirit. He is called the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ in **verse 9**. Paul says Christ dwells in us here in **verse 10**. In **verse 11** he wrote,

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.”

There are two observations to make here. First, we worship One God who eternally exists in three persons. The persons are distinct but not separate. Second, being Christ and in the Holy Spirit means that Christ and the Holy Spirit are in us.

B. The first thing the Apostle emphasizes is how the Spirit of God taking up residence in us changes us. Paul made two statements

1. First, if Christ is in you we have a body that is ***“dead because of sin.”*** Our bodies are not eternal. Except the Lord returns first, we will all die because we are all sinners and the wages of sin is death--physical and eternal.

2. Second, the Spirit is alive because of righteousness. This means that our entire mindset is changed. Do you recall our Lord's statement to Nicodemus?

John 3:6-8 ***“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”***

You may not know where the wind comes from or how it works but no one can deny its effects. The Lord Jesus Himself drew the application, ***“So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*** The Holy Spirit in us is life.

C. Because the Holy Spirit lives in us He will resurrect us in the last Day.

v.11 ***“And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”***

III. How We Must Live (verses 12-13).

“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

A. Here the application from Paul is two-fold. First, we have an obligation we must keep.

“Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.”

Our indebtedness to God is to have a totally difference mindset and lifestyle. We must not live in the focus of the flesh or in any way to serve the flesh.

B. How then are we to live? Second, this is how we are we are to live.

“For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

This verse tells us how we are to live and why we are to live like this. We must constantly put to death the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit of God.

1. If we don't do that we will die because we really aren't living in Christ. Either change hasn't happened or we are going to be miserable in this life.

2. How do we do this? The Lord willing, we will spend more time dealing with this next time. I cannot leave you without one truth in two places in **Philippians 1:5** and **2:12-13**.

“[I am] confident of this very thing that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

I want to close by quoting D. A. Carson. *“We still may sin, but when we sin, the Spirit working in us pommels us and will not let us rest. We may drift off, but we will have no peace finally until we are dragged back ... kicking and screaming if need be, but we will be dragged back.”* Do you know what he is talking about? Is this work of the Holy Spirit in you?

He Will Hold Me Fast