

Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church

Wednesday Sermon

Date: January 20, 2021

Text: Romans 8:5-13

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:5-13

Subject: Ye are not in the flesh

In the first four verses of this eighth chapter, we studied these things:

1. While it is true that Jesus Christ will deliver us from the "body of this death" at his coming and the first resurrection, there is THEREFORE NOW no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
2. We saw the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. Sin and death hath no more dominion over me.
3. We saw that the law could not set us free from the law of sin and death because it was weak in our flesh. Moreover, we saw that God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.
4. Because God's own son condemned sin in the flesh, the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. In God's view, we have perfectly kept the law and all its demands because Jesus Christ kept it for us.

Now, we come to verses 5 through 13 of this 8th chapter of Romans which will further explain all we read in the first four verses.

Romans 8:5 (KJV) *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.*

For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; -- The term flesh speaks those who mind the corruption of

nature – the old man. It is right to say they that are after the flesh “are after it,” because it speaks not of all that have flesh in them, for the best of saints have the flesh in them. We saw that clearly in the seventh chapter. The new birth does not remove the flesh from the saints. But, there is a difference between **being in** and after the flesh, and **flesh being in us**. Why is that? Because those who are not yet born of God have nothing **but** flesh (the corrupt nature in them). Because they are not born of God, the flesh is the governing principle in them. Their minds are carnal therefore, so is their whole walk and manner of life.

But they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. –

These were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise after the believed, therefore the Holy Spirit himself dwells in them and they walk after him. Their minds and conversations are spiritual, though there may be a great deal of carnality in their hearts, thoughts, words, and actions, which is matter of grief unto them as we have seen from Romans 7. They mind the things of the Spirit. Let us again notice the last verse of Romans 7.

Romans 7:25 (KJV) *I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. **So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.***

Romans 8:6 (KJV) ***For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.***

For to be carnally minded is death; -- Carnal mindedness is spiritual death, the certain way to eternal death. It is the death of the soul; for it is its alienation from God. A carnal soul is a dead soul. Not only dead in law as guilty, but dead in state as carnal. Death includes all misery; carnal souls are miserable souls.

But to be spiritually minded is life and peace. – This is the very opposite of being carnal minded. It is a life of peace – eternal life which we now have as our present possession and a hope in Christ Jesus that is both sure and steadfast.

Romans 8:7 (KJV) *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: -- These words contain a reason why the issue of carnal mindedness is death; because the carnal mind, governed by the flesh alone is not only an enemy, but enmity itself against God. It is against God's being; it wishes God was not; it forms unworthy notions of God; thinks God is such an one as itself. The carnal mind endeavors to bury him God and all about him in forgetfulness, it is cruel and hard-hearted against his word and Gospel; against the doctrines of grace, the Father's grace in election, the Son's in redemption, and the Spirit's quickening. The carnal mind has in the utmost contempt the ordinances and people of Christ. This enmity is universal, it is in all men in who are not born of God. What is enmity? It is being an enemy – and of whom? Of God. The Greek word which is here translated as enmity comes from the Greek word: "ἐχθρα echthra *ekh'-thrah*" which is found six times in the NT and is translated as enmity five times and hatred one time. The one time it is translated as hatred is in Galatians 5:20, as part of the works of the flesh. **Gal. 5:20** Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred (**Greek: Enmity**), variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

For it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. – For (it – the carnal mind). Enmity speaks him a devil of a man. It is not only an enemy, but enmity itself. It is not only the alienation of the soul from God, but the opposition of the soul against God; it rebels against his authority, opposes his interest, spits in his face,

spurns at his words. Can there be a greater enmity? An enemy may be reconciled, but enmity cannot. Those that are in a carnal unregenerate state, under the reigning power of sin, cannot do the things that please God, because they lack grace, the pleasing principle, and an interest in Christ, the pleasing Mediator. The very *sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination*, [Pr 15:8](#).

Romans 8:8 (KJV) *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

The that are in the flesh are those not born of God. These CANNOT (notice the word) – do not have the ability to please God. Nothing they can do or keep from doing will ever please God.

Romans 8:9 (KJV) *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.*

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. – Here is the question? Does the Spirit of God dwell in you? How do you know? We can know by the fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Gal. 5:22-23). The Spirit bears witness with out spirit, that we are the children of God (8:16). After we believed in Jesus Christ as our savior, we were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise:

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (KJV) *Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*

Ephesians 1:12-14 (KJV) *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. **13** In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: **in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

1 John 2:27 (KJV) *But the **anointing** which ye have received of him **abideth in you**, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same **anointing** teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.*

Our Lord promised the Holy Ghost would be in us:

John 14:16-17 (KJV) *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that **he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: **but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.***

Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. – We have seen that those who believe shall have the Spirit of Christ in them. The Holy Spirit comes into them after they believe. Therefore, if a man does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ – he is none of his.

Romans 8:10 (KJV) *And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

And if Christ be in you, -- Christ is in us in the person of the Holy Spirit. When the LORD was leaving the church, he told them He was

going to send them another comforter – he would not leave them comfortless.

John 14:16-18 (KJV) *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; **17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. **18** I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*

The expression “Christ in you” or the equivalent is found in other scriptures like these:

Galatians 2:20 (KJV) *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, **but Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Colossians 1:27 (KJV) *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory:*

the body is dead because of sin; -- It is to be admitted, indeed, or it is true, that the unrenewed nature, the man before conversion, under the influence of the flesh, is spiritually dead. Sin has its seat in the fleshly appetites; and the whole body may be admitted thus to be dead or corrupt. In a word, the body is as good as dead.

But the Spirit is life because of righteousness. –The Holy Spirit in us gives us a life of holiness from Christ, a life of faith, and a life of justification by him, and will live eternally. It is because of righteousness, not our own, but the righteousness of Christ imputed to us who believe.

Romans 8:11 (KJV) *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.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you – And all those who believe have the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus – and He shall dwell in us forever. If we do not have the Spirit, then we are none of his. Praise God, we do have the Spirit.

He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. --

"because of the Spirit that dwelleth in you", the bodies of the saints are at this present time the temples of the Holy Ghost; those bodies are sanctified by him, where he continues to dwell by virtue of our union to Christ. In consequence of it will quicken them at the last day and give them their house from heaven. Until that resurrection and change, the Holy Ghost quickens or animates our mortal (subject to death) bodies so that we can serve in Spirit and in truth.

Romans 8:12 (KJV) Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

O, beloved, we are debtors. We are obligated to live after the Spirit and to mortify the deeds of the body because >

- the Spirit dwells in us;
- because the design of his indwelling is to comfort us, teach us, pray for us, and to lead us in the Word.
- We have been removed from the kingdom of darkness and translated into His glorious kingdom by the power of the Spirit.

Romans 8:13 (KJV) *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: -- Surely! This is true! If we live our lives after the lusts of our flesh and follow every motion of sin from hearts, we shall surely die. Living this way, we are dead while we walk about in our mortal bodies and shall surely find the second death which is the Lake of fire.

But if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. -- We can (not in ourselves), but through the Spirit mortify (Greek: put to death) the deeds of the body.

Colossians 3:5-6 (KJV) *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:*

Ye shall live. -- it is a mortification of the outward actings out of sin in the life of God's children, called, "the deeds of the body." Mortification speaks of a subduing and weakening the vigor and power of sin in our lives. We cannot do this on our own, but we have a helper called alongside to help – the paraclete – the Holy Spirit in us. the grace and assistance of the Spirit are absolutely necessary; and such who are enabled to do mortify the deeds of the body, "shall live" comfortably; they shall have communion with Christ here, and shall live a life of glory with him hereafter.