

## Romans 8:9

**<sup>9</sup>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.**

Now remember that Romans is talking about our position. Are we in Adam or in Christ? Are we under the law or under Grace? Are we in the flesh or in the Spirit? In this passage Paul gives us a clear condition of status. If the Spirit of Christ dwells in a person, that person is in the Spirit. If the Spirit of Christ does not dwell in a person, that person is in the flesh.

Notice what this verse is saying. Think about it.

If you are a Christian-

You are positionally in the Spirit **AND**

The Spirit of God and Christ dwells in you. Isn't that odd? How can that be?

How can the Holy Spirit be in us and us be in the Spirit?

Let's first look at what it means to be "**not in the flesh**". That means that we are no longer governed by our fallen human nature. So in that sense, what does it mean to **be in the Spirit**? We are now governed by the Holy Spirit. We are under His sphere, His realm, His control. The Spirit is the controlling factor in a Christian's life. He **was** governed and led by the flesh. **Now** he is governed and led by the Spirit. He now walks by the Spirit and after the Spirit. We no longer walk after the course of this world. We walk in the Spirit.

But this text goes even beyond these wonderful truths. It tells us that the Holy Spirit "**Dwells in You!**".

Let's look at that idea of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

**I Cor 6:18-20 <sup>18</sup>Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup>For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

Here we see that sexual immorality is somehow a sin against our own bodies. And what is so bad about that? We have already seen in Romans that our bodies are a source of trouble for the believer. We know that our bodies will die. We know that it will take resurrection of the body to fix it. So what is the problem if we sin against our own bodies?

1. The Holy Spirit **is in** these bodies. How can we even think to take the holiness of the Holy Spirit and violate His presence with rampant sin? How can we even imagine to trash the Holy Spirit by whom we were born again? Romans tells us we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. What a wonderful thing. How much does that mean to us? Will we grieve the Holy Spirit freely. Will we cut off fellowship with the Holy Spirit casually? That is what we do when we think it does not matter what we do with our bodies. That is what we do when we let our bodies give the commands for how we live. That is what we do when we knowingly choose to commit sins. Paul's first reason for not committing these sins is that the Holy Spirit dwells in us, just like Romans says.

2. The second reason not to sin is that we don't own these bodies. They were bought by Christ.

Let me use an illustration here. Brad. Suppose you saved your money for years and years and bought a brand new 4 wheel drive pickup truck. Now I know that will never happen. But let's just imagine this. And one day I tell you that I have no money and I desperately need to borrow your pickup truck. Suppose you graciously agree to lend me your pickup for an extended period of time. But you tell me specifically- change the oil at 3000 miles, only drive it on the road, and if you do any damage to it, repair it. Now suppose I bring it back in 2 years and it looks like it ran in the demolition derby. It has obviously been used in some mud bogs, it has 20,000 miles and the oil was never changed. And the paint looks like one of our present vehicles. What would you think about my regard for you? Every one of us can easily answer that question. All I cared about was me. I didn't care at all about him. I took what was not mine and showed no regard at all for the rightful owner of the property.

Brothers and sisters, think about this. God didn't save his money for years for our salvation. He sent his beloved Son. That is the price that he paid for us. And he owns us. He bought us, body and all. Do we realize that every time we use our bodies or minds to commit a sin that we fully know to be a sin we take that price that was paid for us and we trample on it? If I did what I described in the illustration, every one of us would feel like I deserved correction. How could I treat Brad so badly in light of the kindness he had shown me? And we would be right. But we don't want to think about, we don't want to consider how we could treat Christ so badly when we willfully sin in the bodies that He paid so much for. God gave His

own Son in exchange for us. He paid the greatest price for us. And what do we do with these bodies of ours? Don't we realize that they are not ours? Christ bought them. They are His. They are on loan to us. Won't you glorify Christ with your body this morning? Consider that in light of last week. What will you do differently this week because of this fact?

3. And what is the therefore? The therefore says it matters a whole lot what we do in these bodies. We are to glorify God in both our bodies and our spirits. Our spirits are not enough. It is not enough to be vexed in our spirits about the sins we commit with our bodies. Some would cling to that idea as the best evidence of our salvation, the fact that we feel bad when we sin and we wish we would stop. They think that feeling bad in their spirit is all that matters. They think that is good enough. They are satisfied at that point and resist any corrections to their sinful actions. But that is not what Paul's therefore says. He says that we are to glorify God **in these bodies**. We are to display to the world the power of Christ in our lives. We are to show the evidence that when Christ frees us He frees us indeed. We are set free from the ruling power of the lust of the flesh the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. We are set free from the power of our besetting sins. We aren't set free of the **presence** of sin, but from the power it has to rule our lives.

Make no mistake- We **will not** and **cannot** glorify God in these bodies when we are ruled by these bodies. We cannot glorify God in these bodies when we habitually and continually do only what they tell us to do. We do not glorify God by sinning. And glorifying God is what we are on this planet for.

Now, to the next text regarding the fact that Christ dwells in us.

**Eph 2:19-22 19Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**

Note here that we are not just individually a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. We are corporately a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Our charismatic brethren

make much of the Holy Spirit being in a place. But here we see that the whole true church that is built on Jesus Christ IS put together for the purpose of being a dwelling place of the God in the Spirit. Do you realize what this is saying? If you are a believer and are fitted together with other believers in the Body of Christ, you are part of the Holy Temple of the Lord. He dwells here. The Holy Spirit is here this morning. There is no denying that fact based on the simple logic of scripture. We don't need to have an ecstatic experience. The word of God says it is true. We, not this building, but we, born-again humans, built together as a church, are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

**II Timothy 1:13-14 13Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. 14That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.**

Here we are told to keep, to hold fast, the Gospel and the teachings consistent with the gospel, that good thing, we should keep, to hold dear, to obey, to believe, by the Holy Spirit. And where is that Holy Spirit? He is dwelling in us. The Holy Spirit empowers us to put into use those things that we were taught. We keep them by the power of the Holy Spirit. We can hold fast, conform to the pattern of the Word that was given to us by the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

**John 14:23-15**“If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—17the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

19“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

**22**Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

**23**Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. **24**He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

We see here that there is a spiritual dynamic that happens in regeneration. The Holy Spirit dwells in a believer in such a way that the believer will keep Christ’s Word. This will be an evidence that the believer loves Christ. And the Father and Son will come to that believer and make their home with him by the Holy Spirit. Here we see that regeneration is connected inseparably with obedience to God’s Word. It is not perfect obedience, but it is substantial obedience. It is a reflection of the Holy Spirit’s work in a person’s life and a condition of the continual indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is caused by Christ but it is still necessary to the Holy Spirit’s indwelling.

**Eph 3:16,17- 14**For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **15**from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, **16**that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, **17** that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18**may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—**19**to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Paul’s prayer was that God would grant the Ephesians to be strengthened through the Holy Spirit in the inner man. And what is that strengthening for? It is so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. And what will the result of that be? We will be able to comprehend and appreciate the love of Christ. And what will that result in? We will be filled with all the fullness of God.

Scripture talks about the Holy Spirit’s dwelling in our lives in two different ways. The first way is the fact that He dwells in every believer. The second is the quality in which he dwells in the believer. It is the difference between a residence and a home.

We know that the Holy Spirit dwells in every believer. Here Paul is praying for those who already have the Holy Spirit in them. He wants them to grow. He wants them to prosper in the Christian life. How will that happen? It will happen as we appreciate and foster the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. If we believe in Christ, we have the Holy Spirit as a resident. He is in us. But how much is he at home in us? Until we submit to the ruling of the Holy Spirit through submission to the word of God we will not gain the full **blessing** of His fellowship. We still have the **relationship**- the Holy Spirit is in us, but we lack the **fellowship**, being filled with all the fullness of God.

Paul wasn't content for his listeners to just have the relationship. He wanted them to grow in fellowship. Paul wasn't content that they have the knowledge of being justified once for all. He wanted them to have the experience of daily sanctification that the Holy Spirit would lead them in.

Notice too, in this verse, that the Spirit works in us, Christ dwells in us, and the goal is to be filled with all the fullness of God the Father. When we look at ourselves we've got to wonder, how can that be? How could a person like me be the dwelling place of God? And the answer can only be- by Grace.

But given that this is an absolute truth, doesn't it make sense that we get ever more serious about fostering that fellowship. Isn't it compelling to us to live in such a way that we welcome the fellowship of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Doesn't it make sense that we see that all of our sinful decisions are just robbing us of that which is most precious in life. We have the opportunity for a deep fellowship with God. We have the opportunity to commune with Him in peace and joy. And we settle so often for so much less. And for what? So we can have those things we think we have a right to? Or so we can take an easier course than to struggle against those things in us that are difficult to overcome. What are we afraid of losing? It is nothing compared to what we gain. A sin will never rob a true Christian of relationship. But it will continually rob him of fellowship, as well as assurance of salvation. And full deep fellowship is what Paul is praying for here. He wants everyone to have what he has. What do we want?

Notice in the Ephesians text that the result of Christ's dwelling in us is that we become rooted and grounded in love. We become settled on a strong foundation of love. We believe and appreciate the love God has for us. We also learn to love our fellow brothers and sisters more deeply. We love Christ and we love Christ's people because Christ first loved us. As the Holy Spirit works in our hearts the outcome will be love.

So we saw this morning that we are positionally in the Spirit. We are under His sphere, His realm, His control.

We also saw that the Holy Spirit dwells in us. And we saw it from two perspectives. The first is that He resides in every believer. The second is that we can foster our fellowship with the Holy Spirit by responding to the Sanctifying work He is attempting to carry out in us.

I would like to close with a quote from Martin Lloyd Jones concerning the Holy Spirit dwelling in us.

“Do we normally think of ourselves as Christians this way? When the devil attacks you, and comes to depress you, when you are weary and tired, and when you are persecuted and everyone seems against you, and you begin to wonder whether there is much point in being a Christian, this is the answer. Just remember who is dwelling and residing within you; just remember who has made His home in you. When you are tempted to sin remember that your body is the “temple of the Holy Ghost”. We approach these matters so negatively, and for that reason we fail so frequently. People come to me and say, “I am praying God to deliver me from this sin.....” but what they really need is to realize that the Holy Ghost is dwelling in their hearts. That is not the way to meet the devil. We must not be negative, we must not merely pray to be delivered. Realize who is dwelling in your body, then you will find it difficult to abuse or misuse that body. Let us meditate more upon these things, let us contemplate them, let us spend real time with them, let us remind ourselves of them daily. It is the real secret of assurance and of enjoying the Christian life, of being more than conquerors, and of being such that God can use us to attract others to a like knowledge and to a like privilege.”