

Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit Assures Our Freedom From Condemnation, Part 2

Sermon Text: Romans 8:1-13

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a biblical understanding of the impact of the Holy Spirit on the believer.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 ways the Holy Spirit impact the believer by transformation of life.

- I. The Holy Spirit elevates us to fulfill God's law. V.4**
- II. The Holy Spirit enables us to have a transformed nature. VV.5-11**
- III. The Holy Spirit empowers us to have victory over the flesh. VV.12-13**

Introduction: Ezekiel 36:24 "For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. **25** "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **26** "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*."

I. The Holy Spirit elevates us to fulfill God's law. V.4

II. The Holy Spirit enables us to have a transformed nature. VV.5-11

1) The result of a mind set on the flesh. V.5a

The term flesh is used by Paul to refer to "fallen human nature apart from God."

The believer does not behave according to the flesh because their new nature and mind are no longer centered on the things of the flesh or ruled by sin. In God's eyes, there are only two kinds of people in the world, those who do not belong to God, and those who do. Those who are according to the flesh, and those who are according to the Spirit.

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

In the Greek the phrase "according to" refers to basic spiritual nature, a basic fundamental bent or disposition. In verse 5 Paul is speaking of the determinant spiritual pattern of a person's life, where as in verse 8-9 he is speaking of the spiritual sphere of a person's life.

(Phroneo) the verb of mind refers to basic orientation, bent, pattern of the mind rather than the physical or intellect itself.

(Phil 2:5 see also 2:2; 3:15, 19; Col 3:2)

2) The result of a mind set on the Spirit. V.5b

This indicates a basic fundamental bent or disposition, saved, forgiven, redeemed, regenerated children of God. Those who belong to God are concerned children of God. Those who belong to God are concerned about godly things, that which pleases God. As Jonathan Edwards liked to say, "they have holy affections," "deep longings after God and sanctification. Despite spiritual or sinful failures, the true believers basic passion or focus and innermost concerns have to do with the things of the Spirit.

Phronema (the mind) is the noun form of the verb in verse 5, and like the verb, refers to the content and thought patterns of the mind, rather than the mind itself. The mind set on the flesh reveals that the person is dead or already dead spiritually.

3) The person who is fleshly minded is dead. V.6a

4) The person who is spiritually minded has the life of God, and peace with God. V.6b

In Christ Jesus we are made alive and empowered by the Holy Spirit. A professing Christian who has no sensitivity to the things of God, as God intended, there are no "holy aspirations or affections," therefore they do not belong to God. Nor does a merely professing Christian have a battle with the flesh, because they are, in reality still naturally inclined toward the things related to human fallenness, flesh, and the world. They long for the things of the flesh, which are normal to them, this is true because they still are in flesh and therefore their mind is set on the things of the flesh. (Romans 8:23)

1 Corinthians 15:42 So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. **43** It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. **44** It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

It is important to understand that, when Paul speaks of sin in a Christian's life, Paul is always careful to identify sin with the outer, corrupted body, not with the new inner nature.

5. The fleshly mind is enmity against God. V.7a

The inclination, or bent of this person is deep-seated, manifested in actual disobedience, which is simply the outward display of the inner, fleshly compulsions of an unregenerated person. Every unredeemed person, whether religious, Jew, Gentile, moral or atheistic, whether visibly moral or visibly wicked is hostile toward God.

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. **21** And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

6. The fleshly mind is not obedient to God's law. V.7b

Even the unbeliever whose life seems to be a model and upstanding person, is not capable of doing and truly good, righteous, loving act, because they are not empowered by or motivated by God's Spirit, and thus their works are works of unrighteousness of the flesh for self-centered reasons and can never be to God's glory. It is absolutely impossible for them to do so.

7. Those who in the flesh cannot please God. V.8a

Mankind was originally created for the very purpose of pleasing and worshipping God. "Christian, in light of the transforming power of the Spirit are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works."

(Eph 2:10; Romans 12:1-2)

2 Corinthians 5:9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

Philippians 4:18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

- 8) Christian's are not in the flesh, but are in the Spirit. V.9a

After having now described the spiritual characteristics and inabilities of those who are in the flesh, Paul begins to address those who are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit (John 3:6). Sinful human flesh can only reproduce more sinful humanness. But the Spirit produces the life and fruit of the Spirit

(Gal 5:16-24; 1 Cor 12:3, 11; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 3-12; 1 Peter 1: 2:13-21)

1 John 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things. **21** I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

- 9) The Holy Spirit now indwells the true believer. V.9b

A testing or testimony of saving faith is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit's presence. You can be absolutely certain of your salvation not just based on the Word of God, but on the evidence of the indwelling Spirit.

Oikeo (dwells) has the idea of being in one's own home. In a supernatural sense, that is beyond our understanding, the very Spirit of God makes His home in the inner man of every one who trusts in Christ, everyone is filled to the full equally with His presence.

- 10) The Holy Spirit is the evidence of being in Christ. V.9c

Anyone who does not reflect the following evidences has no assurance of security, of being in Christ.

- (a) Give evidence of the Person, Presence, Power, and Fruit of God's Spirit in their life has no legitimate claim to Christ as Savior and Lord. **(Gal 5:13, 22-25)**

(b) The person who gives no evidence, and demonstrates no desire for the things of God and has no inclination to avoid sin or sinful passions, in order to please God is not indwelt by the Holy Spirit, therefore they do not belong to Jesus Christ, even though they may be a member of a local church.

(1 Cor 6:9-11; 1 John 1:7-10; 5:18-21)

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-- unless indeed you are disqualified.

11) The Holy Spirit brings life, the flesh brings death. V.10

If God's Spirit indwells us, our own spirit is alive because of righteousness, that is, because of the divinely – imported righteousness by which every believer is justified (**Romans 3:21-26**). In light of that perfect righteousness all human attempts at being are rubbish, and can only produce death, because they are done by dead people.

Philippians 3:8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ

12) The Spirit produces life in the new creation. V.11

The summary of verses 5-10, it was again the resurrection. And just as the Holy Spirit lifted and gave life to Jesus' dead body of mortality, so that same Spirit, who dwells in every believer, gives that same life of newness to every believer now and forever.

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.

2 Corinthians 3:6 who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

Paul has just made clear in (vv.5-11) that every genuine Christian is indwelt by God's Spirit, after having first been made alive by that same Spirit. The new spiritual life therefore is not like the old dead life outside of Christ, and therefore will not be characterized by worldly pursuits, fleshly concerns and activities but by the things that ascribe Glory to God.