

Romans

SERMON SERIES

Romans



HOW DO WE
LIVE THEN?

CHAPTERS 4-8

Two Weeks Ago:

Not Guilty

Romans 8:1-4

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Last Week's Sermon:
Flesh and Spirit: Part I
Romans 8:5-11

Romans 8:5-11

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

NO!

DO IT!



“Your religion is what you do with your solitude.”

20th Century Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple

“Wherever your mind goes most naturally and freely when there is nothing else to distract it – that is what you really live for. That is your religion. Your life is shaped by whatever preoccupies your mind. The overcoming of sin in our lives begins in our minds; and victory over sin is only ever the result of having minds set on the Spirit”

Tim Keller

Romans 8:5-11

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

Romans 8:5-11

¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Last Week's Sermon:
Flesh and Spirit: Part II
Romans 8:12-17

Romans 8:12-17

¹² So then, brothers, 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. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Romans 8:12-17

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**Five “Truths” in these verses about who we
are and how we live**

**Five “Truths” in these verses about who we
are and how we live**

1. We are in debt, not

Romans 8:12-17

¹² **So then,** brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

Romans 8:12-17

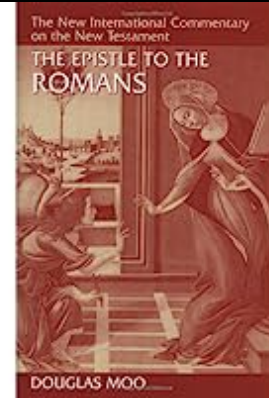
¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

Therefore brothers, we are not debtors to the flesh...

Once more, we note that flesh refers not only to our physical, or animal, appetites (e.g., for food, or drink, or sex); nor does it refer even to a nature within us. “Flesh” sums up what we often call “the world”: all that is characteristic of this life in its rebellion against God. It is to this power of the old age that we are no longer obliged to render obedience. Our (definitive) rescue from “the realm of the flesh” (see 7:5 and 8:9) has not removed us from contact with, and influence from, the flesh. Still embodied (see 8:10 and v. 13),

we have in this life a continuing relationship to that old realm of sin and death – but we no longer belong to it. Like freed slaves who might, out of habit, obey their old masters even after being released – legally and positionally – from them, so we Christians can still listen to and heed the voice of that old master of ours, the flesh.

Moo, D. J. (2018). *The Letter to the Romans*. (N. B. Stonehouse, F. F. Bruce, G. D. Fee, & J. B. Green, Eds.) (Second Edition, p. 516). Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.



**Five “Truths” in these verses about who we
are and how we live**

- 1. We are in debt, not**
- 2. We are in debt**

Romans 8:12-17

¹² **So then**, brothers, **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.

Romans 8:12-17

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors... [to Christ] if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

John Stott “If you let the remaining sinful nature alone – if you allow it to prosper and grow – there will be terrible trouble. Instead, you must by the Spirit attack and put it to death. The more you put to death the sinful nature, the more you will enjoy the spiritual life that the Holy Spirit gives – life and peace.”

**Five “Truths” in these verses about who we
are and how we live**

1. We are in debt, not

2. We are in debt

a. Put to death...

Romans 8:12-17

¹² So then, brothers, 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.

Tim Keller "This means a Christian doesn't play games with sin. You don't aim to wean yourself off it, or say: *I can keep it under control*. You get as far away from it as possible. You don't just avoid things you know are sin; you avoid the things that lead to it, and even things that are doubtful. This is war!"

THE
ABYSS





Barracks

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**Five “Truths” in these verses about who we
are and how we live**

1. We are in debt, not

2. We are in debt

a. Put to death...

Tim Keller “Remember, your life is an expression of your mind (vs 5) And many Christians try to control themselves with law-centered mini-sermons. We say to ourselves things like: *If I do that, God will get me, or: It’s against my Christian principles, or: It will hurt people around me, or: I will be embarrassed, or: It will hurt my self-esteem, or: I’ll hate myself in the morning.* Some or all of these may be true – but Paul tells us they are inadequate! They don’t kill sin. That is taking your temptation to the law and using fear to deter yourself.

1 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

**Five “Truths” in these verses about who we
are and how we live**

- 1. We are in debt, not**
- 2. We are in debt**
- 3. Sons of God**

Romans 8:12-17

¹² **So then**, brothers, 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. ¹⁴ **For** all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

In ancient cultures, sons were named as the legal heirs. In turn, husbands and fathers were expected to provide for the women of their households. Being a direct heir, in society, would not have been possible for the Galatian women, though they would receive a kind of indirect inheritance through marriage.

Imagine the Galatian women coming to hear of this new status in God's kingdom as Paul speaks in these otherwise familiar terms. Picture these women hearing Paul's letter read — a letter addressed to the entire Galatian church.



Chelsea Stanley

They understood sonship and all that it entailed, so hearing that God had given both brothers *and* sisters together the status of sons would have blown them away! God stepped in and radically declared that men and women are one in Christ, equally privileged and exalted (Galatians 3:28), co-heirs together (1 Peter 3:7). In his kingdom, both men and women receive the full inheritance through faith in him.



Chelsea Stanley

In his loving kindness, our heavenly Father allows us to share in this same inheritance today. While the notion of “gender equality” may not sound quite as foreign to our modern ears, the mystery of God’s unmerited favor and grace should continue to fill us with tremendous awe. We, who were once slaves, are not only sons, but heirs of God. Sisters, this is extraordinary news!



~ Chelsea Stanley

**Five “Truths” in these verses about who we
are and how we live**

- 1. We are in debt, not**
- 2. We are in debt**
- 3. Sons of God**
- 4. Access to the Father**

Romans 8:12-17

¹² **So then**, brothers, 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. ¹⁴ **For** all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ **For** you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”





"If you would have told me to pick who my father was, there's no way I would picked him, because I might have thought I wasn't worthy for him to be my father. I felt like my blessings came full circle, because I'd always wanted to be somebody like him."



Five “Truths” in these verses about who we are and how we live

- 1. We are in debt, not**
- 2. We are in debt**
- 3. Sons of God**
- 4. Access to the Father**
- 5. Only with the Spirit’s help**

Romans 8:12-17

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Paul gives Christians the responsibility to conquer the domination of sin in their lives; but he stresses that they can do this only “through the Spirit.” Holiness of life, then, is achieved neither by our own unaided effort – the error of moralism or legalism – nor by the Spirit apart from our participation – as some who insist that the key to holy living is surrender or “let go and let God” would have it – but by our constant living out the life placed within us by the Spirit who has taken up residence within.

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Gospel Application

You don't own the flesh anything!

Gospel Application

*You don't own the flesh anything!
You have a loving Father who is waiting for
you with open arms!*