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Sermon Notes

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The Spirit of Life Dwelling in You

Romans 8:9-13

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9) However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

10) And if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

11) But 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 indwells you.

12) So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--

13) for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

I. The Mortification of Sin

A. Glorious Good News!! Totally Free from Sin's Condemning Power

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!

B. Deadly Serious Warning: Not Free from Sin's Indwelling Presence

C. Daily Christian Duty: Put Indwelling Sin to Death

John Owen: The vigor and power and comfort of our spiritual life depends on the mortification of the deeds of the flesh.

The choicest believers, who are assuredly freed from the condemning power of sin, ought yet to make it their business all their days to mortify the indwelling power of sin.

The principle efficient cause of the performance of this duty is the Spirit... all other ways of mortification are vain, all helps are helpless; it must be done by the Spirit.

II. Present Condition: Realm, Indwelling, Body, Spirit

Paul always teaches holiness by telling you first, what's true of you... then commanding you to live accordingly

A. Realm: Where You Now Live

vs. 9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit

NIV has "controlled not by the flesh but by the Spirit..."

BUT "controlled" not found in the Greek... just the simple phrase "in the flesh" vs. "in the Spirit"

1. Domain and Dominion

- a. who owns this kingdom?
- b. who rules this kingdom?
- c. a matter of authority, power, control

Illus. Robin Hood, shooting the King's deer, liable for crime because he was on the King's property
Everything in the kingdom belonged to the King... all of it was his

2. Possession

- a. either Satan's possession or God's... no other option
- b. God used this kind of language to speak of Israel

Exodus 19:5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.

Psalms 135:4 For the LORD has chosen Jacob to be his own, Israel to be his treasured possession.

c. Christians OWNED by Christ

vs. 9 *And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

John 10:14 *"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."*

John 10:27-28 *My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.*

d. ground of obligation to holiness

vs. 12 *Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.*

Romans 14:8 *If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.*

e. non-Christians are NOT Christ's possession in this way

John 10:26 *"...you do not believe because you are not my sheep."*

John 8:44 *You belong to your father, the devil...*

So, what realm do we live in? There are only two... we are either "in the flesh" or "in the Spirit"

3. NOT "In the flesh"

vs. 9 *"You, however, are not in the flesh..."*

Paul starts NEGATIVELY... by saying what is NOT true of us as true Christians

We have been delivered from the dark realm of the flesh...

a. "in Adam"

b. "under the Law"

c. "controlled by the sinful nature"

- d. “mind on earthly things”
- e. bearing fruit for death
- f. unable to please God

4. BUT “In the Spirit”

POSITIVELY... we have been transferred to a whole new realm

- a. “in Christ”
- b. “under grace”
- c. controlled by the Spirit
- d. mind on things of the Spirit
- e. bearing fruit for life
- f. pleasing to God

5. The great rescue

Colossians 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves

Luke 11:21-22 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.

- a. formerly
 - i) languishing in Satan’s doomed kingdom
 - ii) without hope, without God in the world
 - iii) following the ways of the ruler and all his citizens
 - iv) under wrath
- b. rescued
 - i) Christ bound up the strong man
 - ii) plundered you from Satan’s powerful clutches

iii) transferred you into the Kingdom of God

c. incredible assurance!!

Question: Who is strong enough to overpower Him, take you away from Him and bring you back to Satan's kingdom??

6. Paul's confidence about the Romans

vs. 9 "You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit..."

a. Paul assumes the best... but puts the condition on it

"if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you..."

b. it is possible to know now

B. Indwelling: Who Now Lives in You

1. "If the Spirit lives in you..."

a. "If" best translated "Since"

b. no doubts here—he makes that clear in a moment

c. indwells = makes His dwelling within you... you are the Temple of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

2. Spirit indwells EVERY believer

vs. 9 And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

a. at the moment of conversion, every person receives the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:37-39 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

b. Spirit of God = Spirit of Christ = Holy Spirit

some stumble over this... like some Pentecostal groups

zealous to safeguard the Second Baptism of the Spirit, say every Christian has the “Spirit of Christ” but not every Christian has the indwelling Holy Spirit

3. Trinity indwells

a. Holy Spirit

John 14:16-17 I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

b. Son

John 14:20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

c. Father

John 14:23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

4. Spirit controls EVERY believer

5. NOT “Catching the Spirit of Christ”

C. Body: What to Expect From Your Body

1. Body is dead

a. not “will be dead”

b. not “is dying”

2. Why? “Because of sin...”

Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death...”

a. physical body under a death sentence

b. cells dying constantly, replaced but not perfectly

c. we begin dying the moment we are born

d. God has not removed the death sentence... someday, each person listening to me will die... your heart will stop beating, your

2. Present corruption
3. Present seat for sin
4. Constant battlefield
5. Future corruption in the grave

E. Spirit: What To Expect In Your Spirit

1. Difficult interpretation
 - a. "Holy Spirit is life because of righteousness"
 - b. "Your spirit is life because of righteousness"
2. Probably NOT the Holy Spirit here
 - a. in what sense is the "Holy Spirit life BECAUSE OF righteousness?"
 - b. contrast: "on the one hand, on the other..."
 - c. what's being contrasted: our dead bodies vs. our live spirits
 - d. your spirit mentioned in vs. 16
3. Your spirit is life
 - a. internal, invisible, new creation entity
 - b. regeneration
 - c. outwardly wasting away, inwardly renewed daily

2 Corinthians 4

III. Living Up to Your New Identity... Or Else!!

A. Obligation

1. We owe Christ everything
2. We MUST live up to our obligations... "You should..."

3. BUT must avoid “debtors ethic”

4. What is obligation? Put sin to death by the Holy Spirit!!!

B. Warning

1. Freedom: We owe flesh NOTHING... no debts to pay, no obligation

2. Severe warning... assurance does not erase it

C. Promise

1. Condition: IF

2. What condition?

a. mortify deeds of the body

b. BY THE SPIRIT

3. Reward: Eternal Life

IV. Application

A. Read Your Title Daily

B. Read Your Life Daily

C. Put Sin to Death