

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God
Romans 8:12-17
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Big Idea: The indwelling Spirit leads us to kill sin and assures us that we are God's children.

I. The Spirit leads us to kill sin (8:12-14).

A. Believers are in the Spirit and the flesh does not exercise dominion over them (v. 12).

B. There is a life that leads to death and there is a death that leads to life (v. 13).

1. There is a life that leads to death (v. 13a).

2. There is a death that leads to life (vv. 13b-14).

▪ What does it mean to put to death the deeds of the body?

It means to subdue it, to deprive it of its power, to break the habit pattern we have developed of continually giving in to the temptation to that particular sin. The goal of mortification is to weaken the habits of sin so that we do make the right choices.
Jerry Bridges – *The Discipline of Grace*, p. 197

▪ How do you put to death the deeds of the body?

(1) Rely upon the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16–17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

(2) Take absolute responsibility to put sin to death.

Col. 3:5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

(3) Have a relentless hostility toward sin.

(4) Put to death all known sin in your life.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

(5) Have the right attitude toward sin.

Romans 12:9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

We must hate all sin for what it really is: an expression of rebellion against God.
Jerry Bridges – *The Discipline of Grace*, p. 198

(6) Remind yourself that sin is inconsistent with your new identity.

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires

(7) Have others to engage in the fight with you.

James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

II. The Spirit assures us that we are God's children (8:14-18).

A. The test of sonship (v. 14)

B. The blessings of sonship (vv. 15-16)

1. Security (v. 15ab)

Galatians 4:6–7 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

2. Intimacy (v. 15c)

3. Assurance (v. 16)

Assurance of salvation is the fruit of three truths:

- (1) The declaration of Scripture
- (2) The fruit of obedience
- (3) The inner witness of the Spirit (v. 16)

4. Heirs (v. 17)

Benediction

1 Peter 4:12–14 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.