

We are not in the flesh but in the Spirit.
Romans 8:5–11
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Big Idea: Our identity determines our mindset and destiny.

“What we are governs how we think; how we think governs how we behave; and how we behave governs our relation to God – death or life.” **John Stott**

Verses 5-11 are not exhortations but descriptions of two forms of human existence:

- (1) Flesh is unredeemed humanity** – worldly-minded, desires the things of the world, and lives minus God.
- (2) Spirit is redeemed humanity** – heavenly minded, desire the things of God, and lives for God.

UNBELIEVERS ARE IN THE FLESH	BELIEVERS ARE IN THE SPIRIT
1. Set their minds on the things of the flesh (5a)	1. Set their minds on the things of the Spirit (5b)
2. To set the mind on the flesh is death (6a)	2. To set the mind on the Spirit is life & peace (6b)
3. The mind set on the flesh is hostile to God (7-8)	3. The Spirit of God dwells in believers (9-11)

I. Unbelievers are in the flesh (8:5a, 6a, 7-8).

A. Set their minds on the things of the flesh (v. 5a).

B. The mind set on the flesh is death (v. 6a).

C. The mind set on the flesh is hostile to God (vv. 7-8).

> **The flesh is hostile to God because . . .**

- (1) It does not submit to God’s law (v. 7b)
- (2) It is unable to keep the law (v. 7c)
- (3) It cannot please God (v. 8).

Romans 1:21–23 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

II. Believers are in the Spirit (8:5b, 6b, 9-10).

A. They set their minds on the things of the Spirit (v. 5b).

1 Corinthians 2:12–16 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to

those who are spiritual. 14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. 16 “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

B. The mind set on the Spirit is life and peace (v. 6b).

Colossians 3:1–2 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

C. The Spirit of God dwells in every believer (vv. 9-11).

Implications:

1. We belong to Jesus (v. 9).

Work of the Holy Spirit:

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| > Regenerates (Jn.3:3-8;Col.2:13;Titus 3:4) | > Sanctifies (8:12-13) |
| > Guides (Jn. 15:26; 16:13-14) | > Evangelizes (Jn.16:8-11; Acts1:8;2; 13:2-4) |
| > Produces fruit (Gal. 5:22-23) | > Intercedes (8:26-27) |

2. We will physically die because of sin (v. 10a).

3. We have been made right with God (v. 10b).

4. Because we have been justified we will be glorified (v. 11; 8:23; 1 Cor. 6:14; 15:50-55; 2 Cor. 4:14).

Romans 8:30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Benediction

Philippians 3:20–21 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.