



Romans 8:12-17

## **SALT Church**

December 14, 2025

***“Death that Leads to Life”***

**“The Greatest Book Ever Written”**

**David and Cindy**

**Recap:** *(Here is what we learned last week)*

- **To be dominated by sinful thoughts and actions is to be lost.**
- **To be controlled by the Holy Spirit is to be saved.**
  - Domination of sin leads to death.
  - To be controlled by the Spirit leads to **life and peace**.
- **We also learned that everyone struggles with sin but the difference between the child of God and the lost is simply this:**
  - The child of God goes to war with their sin.
  - The lost justify their sin.

**We closed last week with verses 10 & 11**

***<sup>10</sup> And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. <sup>11</sup> The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from***

**the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.**

- Beautiful verses that express the truth of the gospel
  - Our bodies die because of our sinful nature
  - But our souls are redeemed because the Spirit has given our spirit life through faith in Jesus Christ.
    - We closed with the promise that one day God will give life to the mortal bodies and raise these mortal bodies back to life.
      - This is confirmation that He has accepted the sacrifice of His Son.
      - These bodies will be like Jesus' body, perfect and without sin.

*Now today's text*

**Romans 8:12-17**

***<sup>12</sup> Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.***

- I want to break this down a little more because **what Paul is conveying** through the Holy Spirit is that **we are at war with ourselves**.
  - Last week I brought to your attention that we are made up of three parts:
    - **Soul**, the part of us that lives forever (**who we really are**)
    - **Body or flesh**, the part of us that is going to die and is in the process of dying every day.
    - **Spirit**, the part of us that was born dead because of our sinful ancestry.

- That part of us that must be born again in Christ
- That part of us that can only come alive through the power of the Holy Spirit.

***Now I say all of that to point this out:***

- The soul and the spirit of every Christian is at war with the flesh, why?
  - Because the flesh desires sin like a fish desires water.
    - Paul says that because of the rebirth that we have experienced through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit, we no longer must submit to the flesh and its sinful desires.
      - This insinuates that the non-believer has **no choice** but to submit to the flesh and is therefore doomed to death and destruction.

***In the Greek:***

- It says that we are no longer in debt to the flesh.
  - We now have the ability to have victory over our sin.
  - In other words the debt has been paid by Jesus.

***We continue:***

**Romans 8:12-17**

***<sup>12</sup> Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.***

***<sup>13</sup> For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.***

- I need to remind you that this is a letter to Christians within Rome.
  - The depth of this letter can only be understood through the **power of the one who wrote it with Paul's hand. (The Holy Spirit)**
- Listen to what He says through the Apostle Paul:
  - ***“If you live by sin you will die”***
  - ***“If you die to sin you will live”***
    - *The title of today's sermon came from those words*  
***“Death that leads to Life”***

### A few observations:

- We know that there is ***“no condemnation for those that are in Christ Jesus.”***
- We also know that if a person claims Christ but continues to live in habitual, unrepented sin, without any conviction, they are not Christians.
  - This tells us that we are called to go to war with our sin and we should never believe that we are beyond the fall.
    - ***Meaning, pride is an ugly thing.***
      - **Meaning** we need Humility
        - We better **understand our natural weakness to sin**
          - Our struggle with sin will always be there until we are made perfect by God upon our death.
    - **Why bring this up?**

- ***Because we must understand, we cannot become, nor continue to be who God has created us to be without the leading of the Holy Spirit.***

- Look at Verse 14

***14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.***

- **AMEN!**
  - This leading is a process that takes time.
  - It takes dedication
    - **Meaning** we must do the things that help our relationship with the Father grow.
      - ***Living by faith***
      - ***Praying faithfully***
      - ***Meditation upon God's Word***
      - ***Submission to what the Holy Spirit reveals***

**Here is what I have found in my own walk with the Lord:**

- **Submission to the Holy Spirit** comes from the meditation upon God's Word
- That **meditation transitions into prayer** and often I can't discern the difference between the two.
- **Praying faithfully always leads to living by faith.**
  - It is all woven together in a package deal that we call being led by the Spirit.

## When we do these things, something happens to us:

- Fear is replaced with love

***<sup>15</sup>So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves.***

Slavery is not as prominent within our culture like it was in Paul's day.

- Slaves were property
  - Bought and sold like animals
    - Slaves served at the pleasure of their owners and once their usefulness was no longer, they were no longer.
      - You better believe slaves lived in fear.

***<sup>15</sup>So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves.***

***Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children.***

- The children of the master's did not live in fear.
  - They were heirs to the master's kingdom.
    - Even the slaves treated them with respect.

***Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."***

- This would be like saying "**Now we call him daddy.**"
  - *If you had a good daddy growing up, this is an easy transition for you.*
  - But if your daddy left, or was abusive, or died while you were young you will struggle with this.

- **Like it or not men,** subconsciously our children form ideas about God the Father based upon who we are as men and as daddy's.

- **Paul's point is this:**

- God the Father is the good Father
  - He is the most loving Daddy ever known.
    - There is no condemnation for those who belong to Him.
      - Sure, there is discipline because He disciplines those that He loves, but there is no condemnation.
- He is your Daddy that loves you and wants nothing but good things for you.

- **But how do we know this is true Pastor?**

***<sup>16</sup> For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.***

- What does that mean and how does that work?
  - It means that we have an eternal open line of communication through our relationship with our "Abba Father" **that leads, convicts, and reassures us.**

- **He leads us:**

- He leads us not into temptation but delivers us from evil
- He leads us beside still waters, (peace)
- He leads us into the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control)

▪ He convicts us:

- He convicts us of sin
- He convicts us so that we go to war with our sin
- This conviction is **unrelenting**, meaning it does not stop until confession and repentance occurs

▪ He reassures us:

- He reassures us by loving us
  - By answering our prayers
  - By blessing us with more than we deserve
  - By blessing us with the strength to get through difficult times
  - By blessing us with a church family that actually loves and cares for each other.
  - ***He reassures us by giving us peace.***

***Back to Romans***

***<sup>17</sup> And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory.***

• ***What does it mean to be heirs of God's glory?***

- **It means that**
  - one day we will share in all that belongs to our Father.
  - When Jesus returns and sets up His Kingdom on earth, we will share in it.
  - When the New Heaven and Earth are created, we will share in it.
- ***It means that God Himself is the best part of our inheritance.***



- It means that one day we will have new and glorified bodies!
  - No pain, sin, or suffering ever again...

***17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.***

- ***Why does sharing in God's glory mean that we must share in his suffering?***
- **Acts 14:22** says **“Through many trials and tribulations we will enter the kingdom of God.”**

- **Why?**

- **If there were no trials, no suffering, no pain, no difficulty, we would fall in love with this place and our sin.**

- **The truth is this:**

- We need pain, suffering, and difficulty to drive us into the arms of our Abba Father!
  - Jesus suffered and He was perfect in every way, why would we think that we don't need the right amount of pain and suffering.

**This is difficult to accept but it is the truth and the difference between maturity and immaturity.**

***At the end of the day Paul wants us to be encouraged!***

- **Be encouraged** because you belong to our Abba Father

- **Be encouraged** because of what you will inherit
- **Be encouraged** because of the new body that will never suffer from sin or sickness ever again.
- **Be encouraged** because of who you used to be and how He rescued you from yourself.
  - **Few scriptures say this better than Psalms 73**
    - **See if you can relate as the Psalmist speaks to our Abba Father**

### **Psalms 73:21-26**

**<sup>21</sup> Then I realized that my heart was bitter,  
and I was all torn up inside.**

**<sup>22</sup> I was so foolish and ignorant—**

**I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you.**

**<sup>23</sup> Yet I still belong to you;**

**you hold my right hand.**

**<sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel,  
leading me to a glorious destiny.**

**<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you?**

**I desire you more than anything on earth.**

**<sup>26</sup> My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak,  
but God remains the strength of my heart;  
he is mine forever.**