



Romans 8:5-11

**SALT Church**

December 7, 2025

*“Who is in Control”*

**“The Greatest Book Ever Written”**

**David and Cindy**

Last week we were reminded:

- ***“There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.”***
- Justification must always come before sanctification
  - **Meaning**, we are justified before God because of our faith in Jesus Christ before we can become sanctified.
  - You don’t clean yourself up before you come to Christ.
    - You come to Christ with all your sin and shame and confess and repent.
      - He cleans you up
        - He forgives
          - Then the process of sanctification begins.
- **Sanctification is basically the process in which the child of God becomes more like Jesus.**

**We also were reminded that the greatest form of worship is:**

- Obedience
  - This obedience is not a one-time commitment but an on-going process that last a lifetime.

***I will also admit that I feel like I unloaded a lot on you last week.***

- This week I have purposely tried to keep the load light.

**Now we transition from “There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus” to “who is in control.”**

**Romans 8:5-11**

***<sup>5</sup> Those who are **dominated** by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are **controlled** by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.***

- Oh, my we are in trouble!
  - So, the thought that came to mind was this:
    - Does Paul mean that if you have a sinful thought or even a sinful act, does that mean that you are lost?
      - Notice the word “dominated”
        - In the Greek it is “being”
          - Meaning an on-going process
- ***Let’s continue:***

***6 So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death.***

- You can see where today's title came from.
  - "Those who are dominated by sin..."
  - "Letting you sin control your mind..."

**(Very important side note)**

- ***Paul is simply stating a fact***
  - When you are dominated by your sinful nature all you desire is sin.
    - Allowing your sinful nature to control you mind leads to death.
      - "The wages of sin is death"

**Paul continues with more simple logic:**

***But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.***

- **Why?**
  - What is the fruit of allowing the Spirit to control your mind?

**Galatians 5:22-23**

***22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!***

***"But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace."***

***<sup>7</sup>For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. <sup>8</sup>That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.***

**So, if Galatians 5:22-23 is the fruit of the Spirit; what is the fruit of the sinful nature?**

**Galatians 5:19-21**

***<sup>19</sup> When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity (being drawn to unclean things like messing with dead bodies or taking blood baths), lustful pleasures, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery (pharmakeia which is the use of drugs to manipulate the mind), hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.***

**What have we just learned?**

- **Following the Holy Spirit and following our sinful desires look very different.**
- **Anyone who is not following the Holy Spirit is not a child of God.**
  - **How can we tell the difference?**
    - **What is the fruit of that person's life.**
      - **Is that person justifying their sinful fruit or are they at war with their sin?**

- Is there any self control?

## Back to Romans 8

***<sup>9</sup> But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)***

**It just does not get any simpler than that!**

## But Pastor, aren't we passing judgement?

- Didn't Jesus command us not to pass judgement?

## Let's look at Matthew 7 together

### **Matthew 7:1-6**

***7 “Do not judge others, and you will not be judged.***

- That is a very true statement.
  - But it is not possible because we must make judgements about people and things everyday.
    - So, what is the solution?
      - Jesus continues.

***<sup>2</sup> For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.***

- So, Jesus knows that we must make judgements.
  - His solution to the problem is very simple:
    - If you want to be judged harshly, then you judge harshly.
    - If you want grace and mercy, judge with grace and mercy.

- Notice that nowhere in all of this is the truth compromised.
  - **How do we do this “Jesus’ way”?**
    - It starts with self-evaluation.

*<sup>3</sup> “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own? <sup>4</sup> How can you think of saying to your friend, ‘Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,’ when you can’t see past the log in your own eye?”*

- **Common sense**
  - You may not be weak in an area where someone else struggles but rest assured, we all have weak areas.
    - Go to the Lord, ask Him to search your heart.
  - But be ready because He will reveal what you ask.

**Be ready for His response.**

*<sup>5</sup> Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend’s eye.*

- Perhaps some people don’t feel like they can say anything to anyone because of their own personal sin.
  - That’s the log!
    - How do we get rid of the log class?
      - Confession and repentance.
        - I promise you that if you are willing to confess and repent it will set the attitude of grace and mercy that is needed to confront someone about their sin.

(side note)

- A lot of people believe that it is the Pastors role to be the one to confront church members about their sin.
  - **Matthew 18 Jesus addresses this.**
    - Jesus says that if you see a brother in sin **YOU GO TO HIM!**
      - **Not the pastor!**
        - Go in private, you may have misunderstood what you heard or saw.
          - If there is sin and a refusal to confess and repent, then Jesus says to go get two or three other brothers so that the group can be convinced that this is indeed the case.
          - If this is still a refusal to repent, we are to treat them as unbelievers because that is the fruit of their lives.

### Final thought on this:

- If you refuse to go to a brother or sister when you believe sin has occurred, you have then disobeyed Christ.
- If you take it to the Pastor so that he can deal with it, you make him the hammer.
  - When you are the hammer, everything looks like a nail.
    - **In good churches the Pastor and elders hold everyone accountable.**

- In great churches everyone holds everyone accountable.

### *Back to Jesus and Matthew 7*

*<sup>6</sup> “Don’t waste what is holy on people who are unholy. Don’t throw your pearls to pigs! They will trample the pearls, then turn and attack you.*

- What in the world Jesus, didn’t you just say be careful how you judge?
  - In the Jewish world pigs were the most unclean animals on earth.
  - Pearls were and are very precious.
    - So, what is Jesus saying?
      - The fruit of someone’s life will be clear and evident.
      - If they are hostile to the truth, hostile to Jesus, hostile to the church, leave them with the truth but get away from them until they are ready to receive the truth.
        - Plant the seed and walk away, you hounding them is just going to make it worse.

### *Back to Romans 8*

*<sup>9</sup> But you **are not controlled** by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)*



***10 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.***

- There is an important distinction I need you to understand.
  - **You are made up of three parts:**
    - Your body
    - Your soul
    - Your spirit
- Your body and soul were made alive when you were conceived.
  - The day you were born people celebrated your physical birth
  - **But your body is just one part of you.**
    - Your soul is also alive.
      - Your soul is who you really are, it's that part of you that lives forever.
- Your spirit however is something entirely different.
  - Your spirit was conceived and born dead.
    - It is not until you are born again in Christ that the Holy Spirit comes and gives birth to a new spirit within you.
    - This new spirit is the part of you that God speaks to and creates in you desire to follow him.

### **Why is it important that we understand this?**

- Because our bodies will die because of the sinful nature that we have inherited.
- And everyone's souls will live forever
  - **But only those whose spirit has been made alive in Christ will live with Him in heaven forever.**

- How do I know this to be true?
  - Verse 11

***“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.”***

***What a beautiful verse to finish with...***