

Romans 8:12-17

A New Identity

Image Church // Romans 8 // Week 3

Intro:

Image family... Grab your Bibles, and turn to **Romans 8**!

If you're new with us we're in week 3 in our series through **Romans 8**...

where we're answering the question, *what are the implications of the finished work of Jesus on my life?*

- *And How does something that happened in the past impact me today?*
- *What does it mean for me practically?*

So let's pick back up in **chapter 8 verse 12**...

Romans 8:12-17

Paul says **12 So then, brothers and sisters,**

Recap...

Chapter 7: Wrestle with sin...

Chapter 8: No condemnation...

What we couldn't do, Christ did for us... And the way His work is transferred to us is through the **Holy Spirit** that we receive through faith in the finished work of Jesus...

The Spirit is what gives you access to the **presence** and **power** of God...

Which is what Paul calls it the **Spirit of Life**... Because it gives you the ability to actually walk in new life, shaping our **perspective** and our **pursuit**!

- The Spirit is working **in us** to bring about **new life** in Christ...

And what Paul shows us, is that the proof of our salvation, even in the midst of our sin struggles, **isn't in our perfection, it's in our consistent orientation around the things of Christ** that happens through the power of the Spirit in us...

IOW: When you have the power of the Spirit in you, you have a different mindset than you once had...

- You've been set free from your old ways and your old way of thinking...
- There's orientation around the things of God...¹
- Our minds are set on the things of Christ
 - Our salvation is based off of His work and not ours...
- Our pursuit is not our gain and our glory, but His gain and His glory...
 - Not about the things of this world but the God of this world...
- We have an awareness and an alertness for how we should live in light of the work of Christ for us...

All of that is a work of the Spirit in us...

- Gives us hope for change in this life... It's now possible...
- The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that's bringing new life in you...
- This life that the Spirit brings is not just in this life, but it's a life that you will experience beyond the grave, giving your access to God forever!

12 So then, [verse 12] brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh,

¹ Tony Merida, *The Spirit of Life*.

Example: I drive a 2007 Chevy... when I bought it 10 years ago, I had payments on it... I was obligated to pay the bank back for it...

- Here's the thing when I paid it off, I was no longer obligated to keep making monthly payments...
- What I didn't do was keep making payments after it was paid off...
 - I was free from the debt, so I stopped making payments...

It's because of the work of Christ that we are no longer obligated to follow the ways of the world...

We have been set free, we have been given a new heart and a new power through the Spirit!

And yet so often, we forget this...

You are not who you used to be, you have been bought with a price, Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and given the Spirit of God in you...

- You used to **not** have the ability to live according to the things of God, but now you do...

BTW: This is why we can't treat non-Christians like Christians...

- Rules before heart doesn't work...

Then Paul says in **verse 13:**

13 because if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die.

Warning here... For those in Christ, surrendered to Christ, you're not obligated to live according to the ways of this world...

However, if you consistently live according to the ways of the world **without being oriented back to the work of Jesus**... It proves that you're not in Christ and that His Spirit doesn't live in you...

And your destiny is **death**... eternal separation from God...

If you live how you want, if you go after the things in the world, it will lead to death...

Listen to me, if you follow your heart, it will lead nowhere...

- This is why we need a new heart... That the Spirit gives us...

The things of this world cannot give you access to the God of this world... Which is what we ultimately want and need...

Then he says this:

But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Mortification... Killing off, putting to death sin... This is something that Paul's saying we should actively be doing...

We flirt with sin...

Illustration: People make pets out of predators...

- Surprised when they attack...

This is what we do with sin...

We think that we're going to be ok, then we fall... What happened?

How do we wage war on our sin?!?

- We bring it into the light...

*You either drag your sin in the light, or it will drag you into the light!*²

How do you do that?

- Bring your sin in front of the gospel...

² Jerome Gay

Lean into the Word of God...

- Confession
- Wisdom
- Community

Verse 14:

14 For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons.

Press in on identity here...

- You are not defined by your sin... You're defined by Christ...
- You have been given a new identity- you go from sinner to son or daughter of God...
 - This is what Jesus purchased for you and this is what the Spirit confirms *in* you!

We don't fight for an identity, we live from our identity...

It also redefines how we view ourselves... We have a new identity that the Spirit gives us...

- We no longer have the label sinner, we now have the label son or daughter!
 - This is the identity that Christ has purchased for us, and that's been sealed in us through the power of the **Holy Spirit!**

Which means that you're not defined by your sin...

- You're defined by Jesus...
- We live in a world that's constantly trying to tell you who you are or who you should be, a world that labels you based of your mistakes...
- Easy to feel like you're a nobody...
- Jesus says you are mine!
 - You wear my name, you are a son or a daughter of the King!
- Listen, in the midst of your sin and in the midst of your shame, Jesus offers you something incredible- an identity that's rooted in the God who made you!!

When you doubt your identity, look at the cross...

And watch this, it's your identity that drives your activity...

You don't live for an identity, you live from an identity...

Here's the thing: as sons and daughters of God, you start to look like your dad- God!

- This is what being ***led by the Spirit*** will look like!

Verse 15:

15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear.

You're not bound to Fear...

- Not being good enough...
- The judgment of God...

The opposite of fear is faith that leads to confidence... Not in you but in Christ!

Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!"

Abba, father...

- ***Abba:*** is Aramaic
- ***Pater:*** is Greek, and it means father
- These two words are put together to describe something special... Something that can't be described in just one word...

Pater: is a title that refers to what someone is... A father... This gives us a framework...

But ***Abba*** takes us deeper....

Abba is not simply a title for someone, it's also an intimate knowledge of who you are speaking to... *It's father in 4K ultra HD...*³

³ Charels Martin, *They Turned the World Upside down*

If I go to the park with my kids, there might be 8-10 other guys there that have the title ***dad***... When their kids yell *dad* there's no connection to me...

- But there's 3 kids that if they yell it, it means something diff...

For my kids, dad isn't just a title, it's a deep connection that goes with it...

This is what the word ***Abba*** means...

- There's an intimacy and *Intimacy and a closeness that it embodies*...

And it's the word that *Jesus used when He talked to God*...

Because of Christ, we have access to this... **We have been Adopted**...

- *How does this adoption happen?*
- Work of Jesus... GOSPEL

Understanding God as Father...

- Talk to those who have no concept of father...
- Hold up the concept of God as Father!

Verse 16:

16 The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, **17** and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children...

- This is that orientation that the Spirit does in you...
- World breaths lies, the Spirit speaks life...

heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ...

- Eph. 2 *Raised us up and seated us with Christ*...
- **Note:** *the incredible inheritance here!!!*

- Don't miss that...
- We need to know what awaits us, we need to know that this life is not all that there is because of what Pauls says next...

if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

*Enduring the brokenness of this world and not giving up the hope you have in Christ!*⁴

Press in here...

Conclusion [VAMP]

Call to respond: faith in Jesus...

Call to take a step... Baptism the mark of new life...

Believers...

- Remember your identity...
- Live from Identity, not for identity...
- See the love of God through Christ...
- Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus- know that there's an incredible hope that awaits you!

⁴ Good article by John Piper, *A Spectacular and Scarry Promise*.

Discuss and Reflect

- Read Romans 8:12, what does it mean to live according to the flesh? What does that look like in our lives?
 - Romans 8:13, what does it mean that if you live according to the flesh you will die?
- Read Romans 8:14-15, what does it mean to be a child of God?
 - Reference John 1:12 and 1 John 3:1-3
 - What is the difference between being a child of God and being made in the image of God?
- Romans 8:15 talks about fear, how does the gospel combat a spirit of fear in our lives?
- Romans 8:16-17, what does it mean to be a coheir with Christ?
- Romans 8:17, what does it look like in our lives to share in Christ's sufferings?