

The Way
Maturity of the Church
Lesson 24: Believers are Responsible to Live in Obedience to the Lord

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We've Been)

Paul reviews his letter, so far, in the opening words of Romans 8...

- There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ through faith
Romans 8:1 (NLT) So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.
- The indwelling Holy Spirit frees us from sin that leads to eternal death
Romans 8:2 (NLT) And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.
- Christ put an end to sin's control over us
Romans 8:3 (NLT) ...So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.
- The Holy Spirit now enables us to follow God's way rather than our own
Romans 8:4 (NLT) He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

BIG Idea

There are only two ways to live life. How do we know which we're living?

Romans 8:5 (NLT) 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.

- A mind and actions dominated by the sinful nature connected to Adam (the flesh)
Galatians 5:19 (NLT) When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, **21** 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.
- A mind and actions controlled by the new nature connected to Christ (the Spirit)
Galatians 5:22 (NLT) But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, and self-control.

Information (What You Need to Know)

Paul contrasts a life dominated by sin vs. a life controlled by the Spirit...

- Sin leads to eternal death; The Spirit leads to life and peace
Romans 8:6 (NLT) So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.
“Those whose minds are dominated by their own sinful desires are dead to God. They are separated from God, and therefore they do not have eternal life. However, all who are born again have new minds which are controlled by the Holy Spirit. They are in oneness with God and have eternal life.” – Firm Foundations
- Sin makes a person hostile (opposed to or resisting) toward God; The Spirit makes a person live in harmony (yielded to Him) with God
Romans 8:7 (NLT) For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God’s laws, and it never will. **8** That’s why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. **9** 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.)
 - ✓ Those dominated by their sinful nature cannot please God
 - ✓ Those controlled by their new nature (through the Spirit) can please God
- Sin leads to the body’s death; The Spirit leads to a new body being resurrected
Romans 8:11 (NLT) 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.
1 Corinthians 15:51 (NLT) But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! **52** It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. **53** For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

Application (What You Need To Do):

How can we make sure our minds and actions are controlled by the Spirit?

- Change the way you think (fill your mind with God’s words)
Romans 12:2 (NLT) Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

“Holiness begins in our minds and works out to our actions. This being true, what we allow to enter our minds is critically important. What we watch, what we read, and what we listen to all affect our minds.” - Jerry Bridges, *The Pursuit of Holiness*

- Empty yourself of self so that the Spirit might fill you with Himself

Ephesians 5:18 (NLT) Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit...

“Your call will become clear as your mind is transformed by the reading of Scripture and the internal work of God's Spirit. The Lord never hides His will from us. The difficulty will lie in keeping other concerns from diverting your attention.”
- Charles Swindoll