

## 1. Intro

- In the first 4 verses of Romans 8, Paul declared that there is no condemnation for the true believer; we are eternally secure thanks to Christ Jesus! Paul continues by explaining that we as believers have a clear choice now as to how we live and who we let control our mind, and there are consequences depending on what we choose.
- We have the choice to let the sinful nature control our mind or let the Holy Spirit control our mind. Letting the Spirit control our mind is the only choice that pleases God and leads to abundant life and peace. Letting the sinful nature control our minds only leads to death.

## 2. Text: Romans 8:5-17

### Romans 8:5-9

- **Letting** the sinful nature control your **mind** never pleases God and leads to **death**. **Letting** the Holy Spirit control your **mind** always pleases the Spirit and leads to **life** and **peace**.
  - “Letting your sinful nature control your **mind** leads to death”. This is referring to the believer **choosing** to obey to the sinful nature resulting in death-like consequences (destructive, detrimental, toxic, harmful, joy-robbing, relationship breaking).
  - “Letting the Spirit control your **mind** leads to life and peace.” This is referring to the believer **choosing** to obey the Holy Spirit, resulting in abundant life and peace, both now and forever.
  - When we as believers ignore the Holy Spirit’s leadings, He doesn’t leave us or condemn us, but it does bring Him sorrow or grief.

- **Ephesians 4:30**

### Romans 8:10-11

- The Holy Spirit living in us is fully able and will give **life** to these mortal bodies which are doomed to death because of the sinful nature in them.
  - **1 Corinthians 15:51-55**

**Romans 8:12-14**

- We have no **obligation** to do what our sinful nature urges us to do! We are to put to death the deeds of the sinful nature by the power of the **Holy Spirit**.
  - And Paul again mentions the **consequences** for choosing to obey the sinful nature... you will die (have a death-like, painful, destructive result).
  - Only by the power of the Holy Spirit can we put to death the deeds of the sinful nature. We are simply not strong enough.
  - And when we do obey the Spirit, Paul again mentions the consequence is... you will live (you'll have a peaceful, joyful, fulfilling, healing result).

**Romans 8:15-17**

- God didn't adopt us as fearful slaves; rather, He adopted us as His precious, dearly loved **children** who are heirs of His kingdom! He doesn't want a master/slave relationship; He wants an intimate and tender daddy/child relationship.

**3. Application**

- The believer has 2 ways to live with very real consequences for each: choose to let the death-causing sinful nature control our minds or choose to let the life-and-peace-giving Holy Spirit control our minds. Which way are you trending?
- We talked about the battle for control of our minds. Depending on what we think about and let into our minds impacts whether we let the sinful nature or the Holy Spirit control it. What you are "feeding" your mind?