

## Take Away – Unlocking the Kingdom: Flesh, Spirit

Text: Romans 8: 9

Date: 11-20-22



### With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and/or today's sermon.

1. Romans 8: 8 reads "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God." So, are we to read this verse as "our flesh" is bad and "our spirit" is good? What should the Christian's proper understanding of "the flesh" and "the spirit" be?
2. What do you think of the following statements as summaries of how to live the Christian life? Are they statements built upon Biblical Truth or not? Explain.
  - Let go and let God!
  - It's all of Him, and none of us.
  - As I get older, I look forward to trading in this body!
  - Living holy doesn't make God love you more, but it does increase your love for Him.
  - You do not have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body.
  - It's all about surrendering completely to Jesus.
3. How would you summarize how to live the Christian life?
4. Why can those who are "in the flesh" not please God?
5. Which of the works of the flesh are most common and most acceptable in our culture?
6. Which aspects of the fruit of the Spirit are least noticed and celebrated within the church at large?
7. React to: "The 'flesh' denotes a person who spends his life inwardly and outwardly in serving the interests of his flesh and temporal existence, while 'spirit' denotes a person who spends his life inwardly and outwardly in serving the spirit and the interests of the life to come."
8. What are some specific ways in our day-to-day lives that we can "set our minds on the spirit"? How can we better go about living out the things of the spirit?

## Small Group Leader – Answers

### With your group...

Answer each of the following questions prompted by the text and/or today's sermon.

1. Romans 8: 8 reads "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God." So, are we to read this verse as "our flesh" is bad and "our spirit" is good? What should the Christian's proper understanding of "the flesh" and "the spirit" be?
2. What do you think of the following statements as summaries of how to live the Christian life? Are they statements built upon Biblical Truth or not? Explain.
  - Let go and let God!  
This can be misconstrued to mean that we don't have to do anything after Christ has claimed and saved us...we can just sit back and do nothing. That is not evidence of true faith as described in the book of James.
  - It's all of Him, and none of us.  
Same answer as the quote before.
  - As I get older, I look forward to trading in this body!  
Partly true. We will, in fact, never trade our bodies entirely in. When we die our soul goes to be with the Lord but we will be reunited with our physical bodies that will be made holy and perfect on the Last Day.
  - Living holy doesn't make God love you more, but it does increase your love for Him.  
Our works should be a natural fruit of our love for God just like it is for anyone we love. As a side benefit serving others does make our love grow for that person or God.
  - You do not have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body.  
We are both a soul and a body!
  - It's all about surrendering completely to Jesus.  
We do want Jesus to take over our will and make it conform to His and then live in that.
3. How would you summarize how to live the Christian life?  
See Galatians 5: 22 – 23
4. Why can those who are "in the flesh" not please God?  
Because "in the flesh" means to have our own will and desires fulfilled and due to our sinful nature, we are rebellious and cannot please God.
5. Which of the works of the flesh are most common and most acceptable in our culture?  
Work, earning money, popularity, sexual gratification/gender selection, etc.

6. Which aspects of the fruit of the Spirit are least noticed and celebrated within the church at large?

*Patience, humility, gentleness, (others are personal opinion.)*

7. React to: “The ‘flesh’ denotes a person who spends his life inwardly and outwardly in serving the interests of his flesh and temporal existence, while ‘spirit’ denotes a person who spends his life inwardly and outwardly in serving the spirit and the interests of the life to come.”

*Be prepared to share your own thoughts on this quote from Martin Luther.*

8. What are some specific ways in our day-to-day lives that we can “set our minds on the spirit”? How can we better go about living out the things of the spirit?