

NO CONDEMNATION.

VIII

NO SEPARATION.

In the Spirit– Romans 8:4-9

May 6, 2024

“Today. Right now. If you are a follower of Jesus, something global has taken place. Something magnificent. You have been transferred from life ‘in the flesh’, to life *in the Spirit*.”

The Bible speaks big about life ‘in the Spirit’, but what does this mean? In this message, Lewis takes us to Romans 8: 4-9 and shows us the profound change that’s taken place in a believer’s life.

For personal reflection/community discussion

Read – Read the passage in its context several times. Read it slow enough to understand what God is saying through it.

- What ideas or words are emphasised, repeated or related in this passage?
- In your own words, what is the main idea of this passage? (Try to summarise these verses in 10 words or less)

Examine – Next, try to understand the specifics of what the passage is communicating.

- What do you notice about God? What has he done/is he doing in these verses?
- What do you learn about Jesus and his gospel from this passage?
- What does it reveal about people?
- How do you think the writer wanted his reader to respond to these words?

Apply - After seeking to understand God's Word in this passage, consider how he intends to use it in your heart and life today.

- In the message, Lewis quoted Sinclair Ferguson; "What does it mean that I was 'in the flesh' and under its dominion? It means I lived out of a centre in myself, absorbed in myself and with my own perspective, devoted to this world and its values and standards. It means I viewed the temporal as more significant than the eternal, this world as bigger than the world to come, and made man rather than God the measure of all things." *How did this fleshliness play out in your life before you were a follower of Jesus? Where are there remnants of these old ways still present in your life (cf. Romans 1: 28-32; Galatians 5: 19-20)*
- The 'big picture' aim of Romans 8 is to bring assurance to its hearers. How might these verses do this?
- Though new management has come, the old manager is still around and will seek to assert his influence. In these verses, we get a hint that the way to resist his influence is through thinking rightly, but it's not until later on that this is spelled out (Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind... [12: 3] and Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires [13: 14]).
- What patterns of rest and renewal, means of grace) might you need to put in place in order live this out? And, as specifically as you can, are there things you're knowingly exposing your mind to that diminish the Spirit's influence in your life?
- Rejoice! Romans 8: 9 is true! Spend time in prayer, thanking God for the staggering good news of the Spirit.