

Romans 8:5-11 - THE SPIRIT IN YOU

- I. **INTRO:** Girl from VT. #1 Not Christian, #2 Spirit gnaw at you. No Option: Xtian w/o conviction.
 - A. Issue in Christianity: Truth that Christ has died for us and there is no condemnation.
 1. When Jesus saves us...we get heaven...do our best to live how God wants us to. When we fail, Jesus covers that. When we do, great! That is the Christian life.
 2. The problem is: that is not what the Bible says as we'll discover today in Romans 8.
- II. (Bible on Lap!) **Recap of Romans 8:1-4:** Doctrine of justification. What God has done so that we can stand before him completely justified even though we have sinned against him.
 - A. **Romans 8:1** - This is such a radical statement when we understand the biblical def. of sin.
 1. Went back to Genesis 1-3. Purpose: Bear image of God. Sin: Bear image of self.
 2. **Romans 1:25** and Jesus in the sermon on the mount. Adultery. Murder.
 3. **Sin: When our hearts are oriented around self rather than being oriented around God.**
 - a) Which means there is **not one** person who can claim to be without sin.
 - B. Justification = God had to do what the law couldn't. Switching places with Jesus.
 1. But here's the deal: you can't have the righteousness of Jesus without having his spirit.
- III. **Romans 8:5-11.** Doctrine of Sanctification. Want us to see TWO TRUTHS from this text.
- IV. **Truth #1: The Spirit of Christ Will Lead You to Live Differently.**
 - A. Belonging to God = salvation from sin AND the presence of his spirit. V.5-8 says will lead us to live differently than if we don't have the spirit - the flesh.
 1. Mistake: salvation just changes our standing before God but Bible = changes our heart!
 - a) Prophets - **Ezekiel 36:25-27.**
 2. V.5-8 - set mind on flesh/hostile to God = heart oriented around self. Spirit = heart oriented on God. IOW, at salvation God begins this process of reorienting your heart...
 - B. What does it look like to live acc. to the Spirit and not the flesh? Paul helpful in Gal. 5.
 1. **Galatians 5:19-21a** - WORKS of the flesh. What is a work? Something you do to earn.
 - a) What trying to earn? LIFE! Gen 3 -> I know the way to life better than my creator!
 - (1) Works of the flesh = orienting my heart around myself trying to escape death.
 - (2) **Examples.** What happens when billions of people all orient their lives around self?
 2. **Galatians 5:22-23** - FRUIT of the Spirit. What is FRUIT? Evidence of something.
 - a) Evidence that we already have life and don't have to work for it! **Examples.**
 - C. Paul is saying that if you trust in Jesus, if there is no condemnation, then you have the Spirit which will change the way you live your life.
- V. **Truth #2: You Are Not a Christian If There is No Evidence of the Spirit in You.**
 - A. Clear in the text: v.9b. **Back to story of girl from VT.**
 1. Two options: (#1) Not a Christian or (#2) Spirit will gnaw at you. Not an option: being a Christian with no conviction of living differently.
 - B. CAVEAT: Not perfectly. v.10 - New heart inside a body of sin. v.11 - Until resurrection.
- VI. **APPLICATION:** Examine ourselves. It's easy to make fun of this college student but we all think like this in some way, don't we? Don't we all seek to minimize our sin and presume upon the grace of God so we can do the things that our flesh wants to do?
 - A. I think we underestimate how easily we can be blind to the works of the flesh in our lives.
 1. **David and Uriah.** How easily do we go from operating by the spirit to the flesh?
 2. How easily do we see the flesh in others but are blind to it in ourselves?
 - B. A mark of a believer is a hatred of their sin, awareness of their sin, not being surprised when others confront us of our sin, and a willingness to repent of it.
 1. Not because we need to prove ourselves to God. We don't WORK for salvation.
 2. No, precisely because God has already saved us and has begun to change our heart.
 - C. As Christians, we should make it a regular practice to ask questions like:
 1. Where do I see the fruits of spirit and works of flesh in my life? (NOT OTHERS!)
 - a) Workplace? Social media? Disagree? Neighbors? Family? Spouse? Kids?

2. None of us will be perfect in these things. Perfection really isn't the goal here.
 - a) The question is if the Spirit is in me and is he slowly reorienting my heart?
 - b) To live the Xtian life means to confess weakness & to lean on God/others for help!
 - c) Yet, so many of us live the opposite! We think it means to project strength.
- D. Next week, talk more practically about what it looks like to grow and walk in these things.
 1. For this week, the question we need to consider is do I see evidence of the Spirit in me, do I hate my sin enough to confess and ask for help or do I feel a need to project strength?
 2. Friend, if you are in Christ, there is no condemnation. You don't need to fear weakness.
 3. So, let's lean on each other to live by the Spirit.