

Introduction:

- Life in the Spirit. Chapter 8 of Romans.
- Paul again emphasizes the importance of our killing the flesh.

I. Under No Obligation

- A. "Now Therefore", typical Paul. Paul is pointing back to verse 11 which states that the Spirit of God lives in us.
1. Since He lives in us we are under no obligation to do what the sinful nature urges us to do.
 2. *"Flesh" sums up what we often call "the world": all that is characteristic of this life in its rebellion against God. It is to this "power" of the old age that we are no longer "obliged" to render obedience.* Moo, D. J. (1996). NICNT Romans (p. 494). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
 3. Obligation - to be indebted to. In other words, what did that world nature ever do for you? Did it die for you?
- B. Kill it!
1. Some say you cant loose your salvation.
 2. Some say you can.
 3. Either way, which ever you believe, the command is clear: Put to death, kill the deeds of the flesh/the world! You cant argue against what Paul commands.
 4. *"The same Spirit that "set us free from the law of sin and death" has taken up residence within us, producing in us that "mind-set" which tends toward the doing of God's will and resists the ways of the flesh."* Moo, D. J. (1996). NICNT Romans (p. 495). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.
 - a) *"Putting to death the deeds of the body by the Spirit – the daily practice of killing sin in your life – is the result of being justified and the evidence that you are justified by faith alone apart from works of the law."* John Piper Killing sin is the effect of having been justified/made right with God. Romans 6:2 "how can we who died to sin still live in it? We cant!
 - b) The fruit of what Paul has been telling the Roman church is that the Spirit of Christ in us does and will fight against sin! And we will win because He has won!
 - c) The victory comes because of the presence of the Spirit in our lives.
 - d) There must be a "Yes" in our heart along with the Presence of the Spirit to kill the deeds of the flesh. Those two things cant be separated if we are to experience success.

II. Live Like Sons of God vs 14

- A. To be under the dominion of the Spirit is to be a son of God. To be led by the Spirit is more accurate here to be read as *guided* by the Spirit.

- B. The Story of the Loving Father. He has two sons.
 - 1. One son is a prodigal and he leaves home a son and returns a slave.
 - 2. The Older son lives at home like a son but thinks like a slave.
 - 3. God does not want either to have the mindset or heart of a slave. He wants sons!
 - 4. He goes to both and to each he reminds them of who they are in His house.
- C. The result of this Spirit is that His work in us calls us to cry out "Abba Father!" vs 15. This cry of the heart is one born out of relationship. (IE. A child will never cry out to a stranger, "Daddy!")
 - 1. This is one of most peaceful, secure scriptures we find in the Bible.
 - 2. God adopted us.
 - 3. His love takes away our rejection, loneliness, isolation, alienation, etc.
 - 4. "Adoption" is one of the privileges of Israel (Rom. 9:4), and Israel, as we have seen, is regularly characterized as God's "son" or "sons" in the OT." Ibid.
 - 5. The Holy Spirit not only makes us God's children but makes us aware we are His children.

Conclusion

- Paul concludes with vs 17 and sharing in the suffering of Christ. This will be the theme of the next section 17-30.
- It brings us back to 5:1-5. No thing we endure in this life will outweigh the hope of eternal glory we shall enter into.