



Romans

In the Spirit, not in the flesh – 8:8-10

Contrast of flesh and Spirit in verses 5-9

Flesh

Spirit

Mind set on the flesh (vs. 5)	Mind set on the Spirit (vs. 5)
Death (vs. 6)	Life and peace (vs. 6)
Hostile toward God (vs. 7)	In the Spirit (vs.9)
Not able to be subject to the law of God (vs. 7)	Indwelt by the Spirit of God (vs. 9)
Cannot please God (vs. 8)	

Positionally believers are not in the flesh but in the Spirit



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- Those who are in the flesh – verse 8
 - Continuation of the thought from verse 3-7
 - “In” – walking in, abiding in, dwelling in
 - The flesh – the sin nature
- Cannot please God
 - Cannot – *ou dunantai* – power less, no power
 - Those who are abiding in and walking in the flesh are powerless to please God
 - Flesh cannot be improved
 - Galatians 5:19-21 – deeds of the flesh
 - What about someone who is reaching out to neighbors, family and co-workers, raising a family in a God honoring way or serving the Lord?
 - Can doing these things make someone pleasing to God?
 - If these things are done in the flesh they are not pleasing to God
 - John 6:63 & 15:5, Romans 14:23, Hebrews 11:6



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Flesh

Spirit

Flesh	Spirit
Faith in self	Faith in Christ who is our life
Source is self, flesh and sin nature	Source is the life of Christ, new nature
Reaching out to neighbors and family	Reaching out to neighbors and family
Raising family in a God honoring way	Raising family in a God honoring way
Serving the Lord	Serving the Lord

What is the source? The flesh or Spirit



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- However you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit - verse 9
 - Is this referring to position or condition?
 - “You are” – it is a reality that right now you are not in the flesh (verb, indicative, present, active)
 - Romans 6:6, 11
 - Notice verse 11 alive to God, in Christ Jesus
 - Is alive to God, in Christ Jesus and in the Spirit the same positional statements?
- If indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you
 - Ephesians 1:13-14, John 14:16-17, 23, 26, 15:26, 16:7,13
 - Just as it is said that believers are in Christ and Christ in them, believers are in the Spirit and the Spirit in them
 - Bottom line: when one trusts the Lord as their personal Savior they are permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit is in them and they are in the Spirit, not in the flesh.
- But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
 - John 14:16-17, 1 Corinthians 2:14, Ephesians 1:13-14
 - God gave to Holy Spirit to believers as a down payment with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession.
 - Believers are God’s children – we are owned by God.
 - Those who do not have the Holy Spirit do not have this down payment, are not children of God and are not owned by God – in fact they are enemies of God (even as we once were)



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- And if Christ is in you - verse 10
 - If – *ei*
 - The meaning here is being that or because Christ is already in you (1st class conditional clause which assumes the reality of the condition)
 - The moment we trust Christ as our Savior Christ is in us and we are in Christ (Col. 1:27, 1 Cor. 1:30)
 - **And if Christ is in you, though** the body is dead because of sin, **yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness**
 - *men* – though on the one hand . . . *de* – yet on the other hand
 - particle indicating contrast - contrast with emphasis that the spirit is alive
 - The body is dead because of sin
 - Body – *sooma* – referring to the human body or sin nature?
 - Verse 11 says mortal bodies
 - Is dead – What is this referring to?
 - Genesis 2:16-17 “in the day you eat from it you shall surely die”
 - Death was physical and spiritual
 - Everyone born since Adam and Eve are born in this way (Romans 5:12)
 - When people are born we are born with a body that is subject to death because of the fall. Death has a claim on our physical bodies. Our bodies are in the process of dying - Romans 8:20-23 & 1 Cor. 15:42
 - The mortal body is subject to death because of sin



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- Yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness
 - NAS reads – *“the spirit is alive because of righteousness”* and the KJV reads – *“the Spirit is life because of righteousness”*
 - Is “spirit” in verse 10 referring to the human spirit or the Holy Spirit?
 - Option #1 - The spirit is alive because of righteousness (NAS)
 - This communicates that the human spirit is alive because of what God has done
 - Man’s spirit is the principle of life which was breathed by God
 - Man’s spirit allows man to know God and fellowship with God
 - Pre-fall (spiritually alive Adam walked with God = fellowship) – Gen. 3:8
 - Post-fall (spiritual death – separation from God) – Gen. 3:8-15 - Rom. 3:23
spiritual disconnection (man cannot receive or know the things of the H.S.)
1 Cor. 2:14
 - God in His love and grace desires to fellowship with man for all eternity, thus: - John 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9
 - Man must be born again – spiritual birth by God’s Spirit
 - By God’s breath again – John. 3:5-9
 - Spiritual birth is where real life begins – when man believes in the person and work of Christ
 - The Holy Spirit communicates to the believer via his human spirit which is now alive unto God

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- Option #2 - The Spirit is life because of righteousness (KJV)
 - This communicates that the Holy Spirit brings spiritual life to the believer because of what God has done
 - Communicating the truth that as believers walk by faith the Holy Spirit is reproducing the life of Christ in them
 - The word spirit – *pneuma* – is used 352 times in the NT
 - Mark 1:23 – an unclean spirit
 - Mark 2:8 – Jesus spirit
 - 1 Cor. 2:11 – the human spirit
 - 1 Cor. 2:11 – the Holy Spirit
- Same word is used in different contexts
- Is “spirit” in verse 10 referring to the human spirit or the Holy Spirit?
 - In the context of Romans 8:10 which fits best?
 - Spirit used 27 times in Romans 8
 - The use in verse 10 is the 13th time it is used – prior uses all refer to the Holy Spirit
 - In verses 15 & 16 spirit is used 2 times and is clear that it is not talking of the Holy Spirit
 - What do you think? human spirit or Holy Spirit
 - Good hermeneutics says stay with Holy Spirit
 - The Holy Spirit is giving life to our mortal bodies because of what God has done for us. (verse 11 further explains)