

“Those In Whom His Spirit Dwells”

Romans 8:1-11

Intro:

Let me ask you a question to get us started this morning.... ***Where are you right now?***

Where are you in your life??

Where are you in the context of eternity???

This morning we’re going to talk about “here,” “there,” & “anywhere”

What exactly “contains & controls” your world???

Today we’re going to see what God’s Word has to say about His Holy Spirit’s role & relationship to your whereabouts!

*“Although the Bible is a book offering the good news of salvation **from** sin, it is also a book that presents the bad news of condemnation **for** sin. No single book or collections of writings on earth proclaims so completely & vividly the totally desperate situation of man apart from God... The Bible reveals that, since the Fall, every human being has been born into the world with a sin nature. (Consequently,) what David said of himself can be said of everyone:*

‘Surely I have been a sinner from birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.’ – Psalm 51:5”

- John MacArthur

Lest we ever forget...

“For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” - Romans 3:23

Any and all non-Christians are “by nature Children of wrath.” – Ephesians 2:3

And may we always remember...

“And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...” –Ephesians 2:1-6

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is NOW no condemnation FOR THOSE who are IN CHRIST Jesus

Comments:

“First of all, we should carefully settle what **this phrase, *in Christ, or in Christ Jesus***, means. If there be one truth of the Gospel that is fundamental, underlying everything else, (and in desperate need of being understood) it is this: (to be “saved” is to have) *A new life in Christ Jesus*. **He, Himself, clearly and forcibly expressed this in John 15:4: (when Jesus said) "Abide in me and I will abide in you."** ...Our Lord there taught us that all believers are branches of the Living Vine, and that, **apart from Him we are nothing and can do nothing because we have in us no life... He is to the believer the sphere of this new life or being.**

Let us observe — a sphere rather than a circle. A circle surrounds us, but only on one plane; but a sphere encompasses, envelopes us, surrounding us in every direction and on every plane... A sphere... would on every side surround you — above and below, before and behind, on the right hand and on the left. Moreover, the sphere that surrounds you also separates you from whatever is outside of it. Again... a sphere... also protects whatever is within it from all that is without — from all external foes or perils. And yet again, it supplies, to whomsoever is within it, whatever it contains. This may help us to understand the great truth taught with such clearness, especially in the New Testament. Christ is there presented throughout as the sphere of the believer's whole life and being, and in this truth are included these conditions... **First, Christ Jesus surrounds or embraces the believer, in His own life; second, He separates the believer in Himself from all hostile influences; third, He protects him in Himself from all perils and foes of his life; fourth, He provides and supplies in Himself all that is needful.**

We shall see a further evidence of the vital importance of the phrase, in Christ, in the fact that these two words unlock and interpret every separate book in the New Testament. Here is God's own key... where the door is opened into heaven... The more we study the phrase... the more shall we be convinced of its vital importance to all practical holy living."

—A. T. Pierson

8:2 *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
has set you free
from the law of sin
and
of death.*

Comments:

The Holy Spirit sets God's children free from sin! Amen!!!

8:3 *For what the Law could not do,
weak as it was
through the flesh,
God did:
sending His own Son
in the likeness of sinful flesh
and
as an offering
for sin,
He condemned sin
in the flesh,*

Comments:

Jesus was the first Missionary... He came specifically for God's children.

Jesus defeated death... **death is dead for biblical Christians!**

8:4 so that
the requirement
of the Law
might be fulfilled
in **us**,
who
do not walk
according to the flesh
but
according to the Spirit.

Comments:

Read 1 John 3:18... the Greek translates: "Put up or shut up!"

Note the key qualifier: "us, who do not... but by contrast do..."

The eternal question is... Are you a "walk talker" or a "talk walker?"

Walk in Flesh

Roach
Spoof
Luke-warm
Part-time
Dark
Selfish
Me
Wolf
Manipulate
Take
Hurt
Fear
Deceive
Persecuting
Divider
All-sin

Walk in Spirit

Moth
Truth
Red-hot
Full-time
Light
Selfless
Messiah
Sheep/shepherd
Serve
Give
Heal
Faith
Receive
Persecuted
Uniter
All-in

Galatians 5:16-25: *I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so*

that you don't do what you want. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **19** Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, **21** envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar, about which I tell you in advance—as I told you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24** Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** **If we live by the Spirit, we must also follow the Spirit.**

8:5 For (by contrast)

those who
 are according to the flesh
 set their minds
 on the things
 of the flesh,
 but

those **(by contrast again)**
 who are according to the Spirit,
 the things
 of the Spirit.

Comments:

Flesh

- World
- Self
- Jealous
- Money
- Comfort
- Feelings
- Abortion
- Rights
- Lust
- Lies
- Options
- Get-ahead
- Served
- Master
- More
- Mine...

Spirit

- Worship
- Savior
- Zealous
- Ministry
- Challenge
- Faith
- Adoption
- Righteousness
- Love (agape)
- Truth
- Obedience
- Spirit-led
- Serving
- Slave
- Less
- His!

8:6 For the mind
set on
the flesh
is death,
but
the mind
set on
the Spirit
is life
and
peace,

Comments:

Note the contrast within these verses... the eternal contrast!

Hebrews 10:26-27 *"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God."*

See also: **Galatians 3:10 & 2 Thessalonians 1:8**

John 8:31-32 *"So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, **"If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;** and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

8:7 because
the mind set on the flesh
is hostile
toward God;
for
it does not subject itself
to the law
of God,
for
it is not even able to do so,

Comments:

John 8:37 *"I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you."*

8:8 and
those who are
in the flesh
cannot
please God.

Comments:

The Truth Will Make You Free

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. 36 So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. 37 I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. 38 I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father."

*39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus *said to them, "If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. 40 But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. 41 You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." 42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. 43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. 46 Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? 47 He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."*

8:9 However,
you

are not in the flesh
but

in the Spirit,
if indeed

the Spirit of God
dwells in you.

But

if

anyone

does not have the Spirit
of Christ,

he

does not
belong to
Him.

Comments: ***** Begin balloon illustration! *****

“if indeed” – one cannot over-state the importance of this phrase...

Note: it is not “if one claims” or “if one feels” but rather: “if indeed”

Further... to not have the Spirit is to not belong to Christ...

Stated differently, to not have the Spirit is to not be in-Christ.

8:10 If

*Christ is in you,
 though the body is dead
 because of sin,
 yet
 the spirit is alive
 because of
 righteousness.*

Comments:

Reference back to Romans 7... Christians live with the crucified corpse of their old nature strapped to their back until we get to heaven...

While the Holy Spirit is IN us... the old corpse is ON us...

8:11 But

if

*the Spirit of Him
 who raised Jesus from the dead
 dwells in you,
 He
 who raised Christ Jesus from the dead
 will also
 give
 life
 to your mortal bodies
 through His Spirit
 who dwells
 in you.*

Comments:

“But if” – again, note the conditional clause...

The Spirit of God brings life & lift!

Nothing else can raise the dead & bring life to corpses...

Without the Spirit, everyone eventually pops or sinks!

With the Spirit, in-Christ God’s children live eternal

YOU KNOW you are "IN CHRIST" when HIS SPIRIT dwells IN YOU!