

**HEIRS OF GOD
(Romans 8:5-17)**

I. We have to make the right determination (vs. 5-8).

- A. There are only two choices in life spiritually speaking.
 - 1. We can set our affections or will, which is the meaning of the word mind, on fleshly, or sinful things.
 - 2. We can set our affections or will on those things that are taught by the Holy Spirit, or spiritual things.
- B. Many in our world have chosen to pursue the things of the flesh over spiritual matters and there is no way we can follow both because both are at odds with one another.
- C. Paul leaves no doubt as to where each one leads:
 - 1. If we set our affections on things of the flesh, it leads to spiritual death - eternal separation from God.
 - 2. If we set our affections on things of the Spirit, it leads to eternal life as well as peace with God and contentment in this life.
- D. We don't have to wonder where we are going, we just have to ask ourselves on what are our affections set?
- E. We determine this ourselves - we choose to be fleshly or spiritually minded people.
- F. Paul then explains to us why being fleshly minded leads to death.
 - 1. It sets one against God, as His opponent and no one wins that battle but God.
 - 2. When we mind the flesh, we can't be subject to God's law, because we won't submit ourselves to Him.
 - 3. It is impossible for one who is fleshly minded to follow God's law as long as he or she continues to make that determination to follow the flesh.
- G. We can't be pleasing to God, living in rebellion against His will.

II. We have to follow the Holy Spirit's directions (vs. 9-11).

- A. Christians are those who don't follow the flesh but follow the directions of the Holy Spirit.
- B. There is a lot of debate about what this means.
 - 1. Some teach the Holy Spirit miraculously guides us.
 - 2. Some say He literally indwells us.
 - 3. Other say that the Spirit dwells in us only to the extent that the word of God dwells in our hearts.
 - 4. Others teach that this is a reference to the miraculous control effected by the Spirit over those who possessed miraculous gifts in the first century.
- C. Nowhere in scripture are we taught that the Holy Spirit miraculously guides us into a right way of life - this would take away our free will.
- D. The Bible does teach the God the Father and God the Son dwells in us as does the Holy Spirit but it is by faith according to Ephesians 3:17.
- E. About the last, that it is a reference only to those in the first century,

nowhere else in this text is that evident, but it seems throughout that Paul is talking to all Christians.

- F. Therefore, I conclude that Paul is saying that the Holy Spirit dwells in us through the Word of God because that is what teaches us how to not live according to the flesh.
- G. When we fail to live according to the directions of the Holy Spirit, we aren't and cannot be Christ's.
- H. When we are striving to live according to the Spirit, the body is going to die because of sin and its effects on humanity.
 - 1. However, the Spirit gives eternal life by the righteousness it teaches.
 - 2. We die physically, but we don't have to die spiritually.
- I. In fact, if we follow the Spirit's directions, we will be resurrected.
 - 1. The marginal reading of this verse ends with "because of His Spirit which dwells in you."
 - 2. He is talking to Christians and promises us that we will be raised from the dead.
 - 3. He is not concerned here with those outside of Christ, though they will be raised again as well.
 - 4. They will be raised in order to taste of the second death.

III. **We must realize we are debtors (vs. 12-17).**

- A. Because of what has been done for us and what has been promised us, we are not indebted to the flesh.
 - 1. We have no obligation to satisfy that which spiritually kills us.
 - 2. If we live that way we will die he tells us.
- B. However, if we put to death, the meaning of mortify, the sinful desires we have we can live for all eternity.
- C. The desires we have can be met in scriptural ways.
 - 1. The food, shelter and clothing we need and desire are promised by God to be met.
 - 2. The sexual desires we have are to be met and fulfilled in marriage.
 - 3. Whenever we let them exceed our desire for God, we fall into sin.
- D. As debtors, we are to live for and like the one who paid our debt.
- E. We show the world that we are heirs of God by following the teaching of the Spirit
- F. We can give up the things of the world because we have nothing to fear when it comes to death.
 - 1. The Gentile world was fearful of their gods because in their mythology's the gods did terrible things to people.
 - 2. The Jews under the Mosaic Law were in constant fear of their sins as Paul pointed out in chapter 7.
 - 3. Notice the word again here - this indicates they had left those things - the Jews the Law and the Gentiles idolatry.
- G. Instead of fear, they were adopted by God and received the Spirit because of that adoption.
 - 1. Because we have been adopted we can cry out to God.

2. Abba is Aramaic for Father and the second reference is Greek for Father, indicating Jew and Gentile in Christ can call out to God as Father.
- H. Verse 16 is interesting and difficult.
1. Notice the word with is there and not the word to.
 2. The Holy Spirit does not bear witness to our spirits.
 3. It bears witness with our spirits.
 4. The denominational world tells us that the Holy Spirit tells them or witnesses to them that they are saved.
 5. Rather, this passage teaches that the Holy Spirit and our spirit are together in this endeavor.
- I. The idea is that the Holy Spirit has given the Word of God and our spirits have obeyed the Word of God, thus together, they show the world we belong to God the Father as His children.
1. Through the word, the Spirit tells us how to be saved.
 2. When we've done that, our conscience can see that we've done that.
 3. Our actions fall in line with the teaching of the Spirit which shows the world we are God's children.
- J. If we are His child, we are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.
1. We get the splendor of heaven that Jesus got when He ascended on high.
 2. As our Elder Brother, he gets the rights and privileges of the firstborn son, receiving a great legacy.
- K. Our receiving this will depend on if we lived for Him in this life.
1. If we put up with the pain of this world we get heaven.
 2. If we suffer with Him we will be glorified with Him.
- L. This family relationship doesn't depend on what earthly family we were born into, any human wisdom or any actions or giving we might do on this earth - it only depends on if we are obedient and faithful to God or not.