

Series through Romans: TRUTH: UNASHAMED, PART III

Sermon Title: Week 2, The Spirit and the Flesh

Principal Scripture: Romans 8:5-11 Date: November 4, 2018

- **TODAY! Back in Romans Part THREE- romans 8**
 - **Catch up- Sept 23 (humanities crisis), week 1 here**
 - **Study guide.. Bible... online resources**

† **A faulty assumption**

- **SO, start with story from my trip to Italy... NOT Rome, but Naples... I made a faulty assumption... but it was NOT that my phone was safe. I didn't even THINK about that. My faulty assumption was that I didn't need to listen to what I was being told...**
- **THIS ASSUMPTION- that we are wise enough on our own for our issues in life- that we don't need to listen, that we don't need to live in dependence and obedience to God... THIS IS THE CORE ASSUMPTION OF OUR FLESH. Remember flesh?**
- **And Church, when we ask the question WHY AM I NOT EXPERIENCING LIFE and Peace IN CHRIST that Jesus promised-the Fruit of the spirit that NT describes... why do I still fall prey to temptation, fear, anger, discontent, pride, passivity...**
- **The answer - according to Romans/ NC- is that we allow our default mindset to be on our FLESH.**
- **There are two 'mindsets' we can have as believers- a mind set on Spirit, or a mind set on ourselves, our flesh... AND most of the time, either by choice or by default, we allow ourselves to operate by our flesh.**
- **YOU SEE, we often think that the ongoing Christian life is a choice between good verses bad, sin versus righteousness- and we do have to make these decisions. BUT the fundamental starting choice we must make every day, as Paul says, is the choice between living ACCORDING to the flesh or according to the Spirit. If you are thinking WHAT DOES THAT MEAN... this is where we are going.**

† **The Spirit and the flesh!**

Romans 8:4-5 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

- **MIND SET: consistent, intent focus. Choice of what we look to, rely up, as we go through each day. Whatever our mind is set on, that will determine how we live.**
- **FLESH- can be very active (fixated on ourselves), or just passive, not paying attention, default is self. This was my Naples experience.... Yeah, yeah, whatever**
- **Where is our mind set? We can tell by the difference between what FLESH desires and what the SPIRIT desires.**
- **So! What does the flesh desire? This can look like a LOT of different things, but Bottom line- our flesh desires to be in control. It wants to call the shots. It wants to make the calls, determine what is worthy of my time, attention, and obedience. Most of all, the flesh DOES NOT want to live by faith.**
- **On the other hand, what does the SPIRIT desire? The spirit desires to be surrendered to God. The spirit desires to love God, trust God, respond in obedience to God, express God's nature and character in how we think, feel, and act. This spirit desires to be about God's will. The spirit desires that we LOVE people.**

- **WHAT THE SPIRIT desires only possible BY FAITH.**
- **CHURCH! Whether or not we are experiencing the LIFE OF GOD comes down to whether or not we are choosing to SET OUR MINDS upon the Spirit.**
- **This is the table that Paul is pounding... Don't miss the life, the presence, and goodness of God! It all comes down to a matter of...**

† **A matter of mindset.**

Romans 8:6-8, NASB *For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, ⁷because 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

The mind set on the flesh

Is **DEATH**

- **Strong word! Paul wants to make sure we understand what is at stake here. When we choose to ignore God and live by our own devices... OR, we may not think we are rejecting God, but we fixate our on our own perspective... it STEALS LIFE!**
- **JUST LOOK AROUND! In our own lives, culture, and world, the story of humanity is the story of what happens when we live outside of a dependent relationship with God. SATAN doesn't need to trip us up with massive attacks... he just needs us to look toward ourself rather than God.**

Is **HOSTILE** to God

- **Can you relate? I can. When I'm fixated on what I want to do, to have happen, I DON'T want to hear otherwise! God, I don't want to talk about it!**

CANNOT submit to God

Cannot **PLEASE** God

The mind set on the Spirit

Is **LIFE** and **PEACE**

- **Personal example... church budget. What my flesh does, what the spirit does**

† **The Believers reality... really!**

Romans 8:9 (NASB) *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.*

- **HEAR! HUGE! If you have placed your faith in Christ, the DEFINING reality of who you are is that THE SPIRIT OF GOD DWELLS IN YOU. For apart from being in Union with Christ, we are still separated from God. Let's walk through this verse backward....**

- **We BELONG to Christ.**

Romans 7:4-6 So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, **that you might belong to another**, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

- **SO MUCH meaning here! Reminds me of Psalm 100...**

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. ⁵For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

– **We belong to Christ because...**

- We **POSSESS** the Spirit of Christ.

– **THINK of what this means!**

- *I have no value... No...*
- *I can't face this situation...*
- *I'm never going to overcome something...*

– **We possess the Spirit of Christ because...**

- The Spirit of God **DWELLS** in us. **INDEED!**

– **Something key here... this passage is a strong statement of the Trinity. In this passage, Paul describes the Father (God), the Son (Christ), BOTH being present in us through the SPIRIT.**

– **Believer... you are in union with the TRINITY. That's beyond our ability to comprehend, but it is TRUE. AND BECAUSE IT IS TRUE... start of verse 9**

- Therefore, the flesh is **NOT** our home!

– **We are NOT in the flesh, we are IN THE SPIRIT.**

- *IN... We reside, our base, our true identity.*

– **We think: I'm a believer, but my default position, and basic life experience, is still self-centered and struggle with sin. YES, I do my best to live in obedience to God, and I succeed at times for a time, but honestly, it seems like my home, my residing place, is the struggle of my flesh.**

– **GOD PROCLAIMS... THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE!!!**

- *IN CHRIST, our home, our center- our 'state of rest', is now our union with THE SPIRIT who dwells in us.*
- *AND THE SPIRIT is about the work of changing our default so that while YES, we still sin, YES, we still have the option of turning back to our flesh, our normal experience of life who we are In Christ, our relationship with him, and His nature in us.*

– **THIS WILL HAPPEN, scripture says, as we daily, moment by moment make the choice for our mind to be set upon the things of the Spirit within us.**

– **NEXT WEEK, entire message will focus on what this looks like. BUT FIRST, amazing promise...**

† **The great promise of already and not yet.**

Romans 8:10-11 *But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

– **Reality... because our world is corrupted by sin, the reality of the fall, these physical bodies are deteriorating, and will die. In this mortal life, we are subject to death.**

– **AND YET, because CHRIST IS IN YOU, His spirit gives us LIFE. RIGHT NOW. His righteousness, his presence, his goodness, fruit of his spirit, IS OURS.**

- *John 10:10 (hawiann pidgin) "I've come so you may come alive inside, and live to da max"*

- ***Randy... struggling with his body. We pray for his healing! But most of all, we can give thanks, because RANDY has the life of Christ! It is who he is, and it shines through in who he is and how he lives. SAME IS TRUE, increasingly, for us ALL.***
- ***Paul continues with the promise of the 'not yet'.***
- ***Twice in same thought, how does Paul describe the Spirit of God... WHO RAISED CHRIST. CHURCH! The spirit dwelling in us is the Spirit of RESURRECTION!***
- ***We are able to FACE the reality of death with the hope of resurrection, we KNOW that life has conquered death, and we KNOW that one day GOD WILL GIVE NEW LIFE TO OUR MORTAL BODIES, when our spiritual resurrection that has already happened is joined with the physical resurrection of our bodies, free from the struggle of our flesh.***

Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body