

**I. Introduction and Review.**

**II. You no longer walk according to the flesh. v. 5-8**

**A. Paul divides all of humanity into two categories. v. 4b-5**

1. Some are of the flesh, controlled by their old sinful nature.
2. Some are of the Spirit, new creatures in Christ.
3. There is no third category of fleshly (*carnal*) Christians.
4. Paul contrasts their mindset, attitude to God, spiritual capacity and end.

**B. Those who are of the flesh live for fleshly things, resulting in death.**

1. Their minds are set on fleshly things. v. 5a II Pe. 2:10 I Jo. 2:15-17
  - a. What you think reflects who you are and determines what you do. Pr. 4:23
  - b. They are attracted to (and characterized by) the deeds of the flesh. Ga. 5:19-21
  - c. Their thoughts are absorbed with fleshly things. Phil. 3:19
  - d. This does not mean that they are all wicked or criminal in an earthly sense.
2. They are hostile towards God and His law. v. 7a 5:10 Co. 1:21
  - a. Why are fleshly people at enmity with God? c.
  - b. This does not mean that they hate everything called g-o-d.
3. They are unable to obey or please God. v. 7b-8 3:23,10f 6:20 John 6:44 Ge. 6:5
  - a. This is one of the great texts establishing the doctrine of total depravity.
  - b. The inability of the flesh is moral, not physical.
4. The mindset of the flesh leads to death. v. 6a 6:23 Eph. 2:1
  - a. They are now spiritually dead. Eph. 2:1 Isa. 59:2 I Co. 2:14
  - b. Those who persist in worldliness will ultimately experience the world's doom

**C. Those who are of the Spirit live for Spiritual things resulting in life and peace.**

1. Their minds are set on Spiritual realities. 12:2 Col. 3:1-2 Ga. 5:22-23 Phil. 4:8-9
  - a. They are attracted to prayer, church attendance, fellowship, witnessing, serving, and giving.
  - b. Their thoughts are consumed with Spiritual things: Bible study, prayer, meditation. Ps. 42:1 63:1
  - c. This mindset affects their conversations with others.
  - d. This does not mean that they are living in constant spiritual victory. Ps. 77 73 Gal. 5:17 Eph. 6:10f Heb. 12:4
2. They love God and His law. John 14:15 Ps. 119:97 I Jo. 5:3 I Pe. 2:2
3. They are able to gladly obey and please God. 8:4 12:1-2 I Co. 5:9 Eph. 5:10 Phil. 4:8 I Th. 4:1 I Jo. 3:22 5:3
4. The mindset of the Spirit leads to life and peace. v. 6b 5:1 6:11 12:15 14:17 15:13 John 10:10 17:5,3 Phil. 4:7 Isa. 26:3

**D. How can a fleshly person be transformed into a Spiritual person?**

1. A fleshly person is unable to change his nature. Je. 13:23 Mt. 7:18 Jo. 6:44,65 8:34
2. Only the Supernatural irresistible work of God can make you a child of God. John 1:13 3:6-7 I John 5:1
3. Who makes you to differ? I Co. 1:30-31
4. Preaching to appeal to the flesh ("sinner sensitive worship") is useless.

### III. You walk according to the Spirit. v. 9-11

- A. The Holy Spirit indwells you. v. 9 (a stark contrast to the indwelling of 7:17-18,20)**
1. Every believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, from the moment of conversion. Eph. 2:22 1:13 I Co. 3:16 6:19 12:13 II Ti. 1:14 John 14:17 Acts 2:38
  2. If you are not indwelt by the Holy Spirit you are not a Christian. Jude 19
    - a. It is not enough to consider yourself a “spiritual” person.
    - b. Theological knowledge, emotional experiences, church membership, family ties, and religious rituals do not prove that you are right with God.
  3. How can you know if the Spirit dwells in you? II Pe. 1:10 II Co. 13:5
    - a. The indwelling of the Spirit is not a feeling nor is it an ecstatic experience .
    - b. The Spirit does not come by baptism or any other religious rite.
    - c. Have you believed upon Christ to save you from your sin. Ga. 4:6 3:2 I Co. 12:3 I Jo. 4:15 Acts 2:38
    - d. Do you live for Spiritual things?
  4. If your life is unspiritual (fleshly), you have no grounds for assurance. Mt. 25:1f
  5. In what sense does the Holy Spirit indwell us?
  6. What does this passage teach us about the Trinity?
    - a. *The Spirit is in you and Christ is in you.* Christ dwells in you by means of the Holy Spirit. John 14:23 Eph. 3:16-17 Mt. 28:20 .
    - b. He is the *Spirit of God* and the *Spirit of Christ*. The Holy Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son. John 1:33 14:26,16 15:26 16:7 Ga. 4:6 I Pe. 1:11
- B. You now have life, in spite of your dying body, because of the indwelling Spirit. v. 10**
1. The effects of sin still plague your body which is dying. v. 10a 5:12 7:24 Gen. 3:19
  2. Spiritually you are alive because of the righteousness of God which you have received by faith in Christ. 5:18
  3. Is Paul speaking of the human spirit or the Holy Spirit here? v. 10b
    - a. Some say that Paul is contrasting our regenerate human spirit, which is alive, with our bodies, which are dying. (NIV, NASB) 8:16 1:9
    - b. Others believe Paul speaks of the indwelling Spirit Who is life (KJV, ESV).
- C. God will resurrect your body through the life giving Holy Spirit. v. 11 II Co. 5:5**
1. The indwelling Spirit is a guarantee that your body will be raised. Eph. 1:13-14
  2. You will be raised unto glory, like the resurrection of Jesus. 6:4 8:17 II Co. 4:14
  3. The salvation provided by God redeems the entire man, including the body. 8:23,30 Phil. 3:21 I Jo. 3:2 I Co. 15:53f

### IV. Concluding applications: Are you of the flesh or of the Spirit?

#### Discussion questions for family worship.

1. Into what categories does Paul divide all of humanity?
2. Describe the mindset, attitude toward God, spiritual capacity and the end of each.
3. Is there such a thing as a real Christian who is completely characterized by fleshliness?
4. How do verses 7b-8 support the doctrine of total depravity?  
What is the doctrine of total depravity?
5. If the man of the flesh is completely unable to please God, then how can he be saved?
6. Which people does the Holy Spirit indwell?
7. How can you know if the Spirit dwells in you?
8. How is it possible for a person to have theological knowledge, or an ecstatic experience, or to make a public profession of faith without having the Holy Spirit?
9. What are the benefits of being indwelt by the Holy Spirit?
10. Describe the past, present, and future work of the Holy Spirit in your life.