

Our subject today is holiness. The evidence of a true Christian.

Romans 8 speaks of the **work of sanctification**. It means **the process of becoming HOLY**. To **becoming more like Christ in our behavior and in our character**. **How does this happen? How do Christians become sanctified?** The Chapter shows how we should view ourselves if we want to advance in Sanctification.

A characteristic of a Holy person is they desire to walk after Gods Spirit, Desire His ways and his truth, while an unholy life only wants the dictates, and desires and lusts of the flesh. Right here we are introduced to **2 Governing Principles**.

1. **Some walk after the Spirit**, they are the true sons of God, and they please God.
2. But then others and sadly many many people are **governed by the flesh**, according to the ways of this world, according to the prince of the air, this prince now working in the sons of disobedience.

But more than that also these **2 natures warring in us for dominance**, they both want to sit on the throne, they both want to be king. The converted man or woman is a new creation in Christ, but the old nature still remains within them.

Chapter 8 is so rich and so deep that we could pause and preach a whole message on each truth mentioned. I hope to by Gods help to give more of a simple clear overview rather than go too deeply into one truth. I hope to like Paul give you a good clear outline in order, and very clearly and simply, and yet with great depth.

Yet we must also remember that the chapters were introduced by man. They are very very connected and can hardly be separated. As we shall see later.

Read - Romans 8:1-10

The Christians aim in life is HOLINESS.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Therefore now no **condemnation**. *Katakrima* 'There is no sentence pronounced there is no punishment following.' **This is only true for those Which are in Christ Jesus**

But note that the apostle Paul does not say there is no corruption, but that there is no condemnation. As one of the commentators of old says, **"Perfection in holiness is the saint's aim in this life, his attainment only in the next."**

The Apostle doesn't say no correction belongs to them; they will be corrected but not condemned.

He doesn't say that they have done nothing worthy of condemnation, He says that no condemnation will come to them that are in Christ Jesus. **So although there is no condemnation there is still the law of sin in my members warring with Gods Law in me.**

(V1) closes "*with who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*" some think that it's a condition that we do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. But the only condition is, **In Christ Jesus. Those in Christ** have their old sinful life crucified in Christ, and when He died on the cross, He took my sin and guilt at Calvary. Then when He rose again, because I am in Him, I too will rise, and when He shall appear at His second coming, then I shall also appear with Him in GLORY. (Colossians 3:3-4) it's all by GRACE and not of works lest any man should boast. Walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh is not a condition but a result of what the Lord has done for us, when it's revealed to us, by Gods Spirit what has been done for us, our hearts are filled with gratitude for this wonderful pardon, out of gratitude and love for Him we want to obey Him, we want to walk after the Spirit. We want to please Him. We love Him and therefore obey His commands. It's not a condition but a result.

Those who **walk** not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. when we take a literal translation of the word from the Greek. It means *to tread all around or to walk everywhere*. So all of our walking in every area of our lives is to walk not according to the flesh or our sinful human nature. But after the Spirit, not just on Sundays when we go to Church, but every day. Not just when we are with believers but with all people walking after the Spirit. Its not just in the big things its in the small things as well. In other words our walk everywhere, in everything we do, in every detail of life is to be after the Spirit and not the flesh. It should be what we are recognized and known for. They walk after God.

Romans 8:2 *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.* **Two opposing spiritual ruling forces.** One force of principle lifting us up. One ruling force pulling us down.

The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ (v2-) A picture of the Law of life is seen in *1Corinthians 15:45* *And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.* A quickening or a life-giving spirit. Christ risen has justified me and set me right with God. He has made me free. I've escaped from the bondage of the Law of Sin and death. Life was given to us. He quickens us.

When we were Born again by the living and incorruptible seed of the word of God which lives and abides forever. We are freed from the law of sin and death and become servants of God, the fruit of being freed, is growth in Holiness. The new man in Christ shows REVERENCE towards God. The new nature has new appetites and desires that Love God and wants to bring glory to the Father. The new Nature wants to see souls saved, the new nature prays and intercedes for

others. The new nature wants to be involved in the Lord's work. These new tastes are a result of God's Spirit working in us.

The Law of Sin and Death. ... *in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.* This Law works in the sons of disobedience. It blinds them for spiritual truth. They don't value and treasure the truth. They are Always complaining. The preaching was too long, the preaching was too serious I don't like what the pastor said. But really its not the pastor or the preaching that the carnal person does like, they have a dislike for God's Word, and they don't want to live by God's Word. They say, I want to be free, not realising and being blinded that the only source of freedom is to be in Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:3 Here we see the one and only way to begin a life of Holiness "*For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.*"

What the Law of Moses couldn't do, the moral Law the 10 commandments. The Law was not at fault and weak, rather it was man at fault and weak through the flesh. The Law had no ability to give us power to keep its commands, it couldn't tame our sinful nature, it couldn't change us and man was powerless to untangle himself from the power of sin and death working in his life.

But God provided the answer in great love and sacrifice and sent *His own Son* in the likeness of sinful flesh, He didn't come in sin, there was no sin in Him at all, He was perfect and sinless, and He came in the likeness of Sin, to break the power of sin and death He came to condemn sin in the flesh. Sin had to be condemned and punished. That's the only way its power could be broken. By acknowledging my guilt and putting it upon Christ Jesus the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world. Christ died on the cross for my sin. He took it He paid the price; He took the pain. He took the punishment that was due to me. **God pronounced sentence upon sin in Human nature.** Knox says it clearly. He signed the death warrant of sin in our nature.

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

Now we are set free to obey God's ways. The righteousness of the Law is fulfilled in us. It is as if we had never sinned. We are freed from the dictates of the old sinful nature and Christ would give us a new nature His Spirit would make me a new creation that desires not to sin. Not in our strength but by abiding in Christ, by walking in His ways. Our hope is God's spirit working in us the source and influence of Holiness.

It is Christ who freed me, and provided the power to walk after the Spirit. *Galatians 5:16 I say, then, Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.* The very next verse

Galatians 5:17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. Spiritual life is not without conflict. The Spirit and the flesh have different appetites. The sign of the truly saved are those who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.

V5-6 If you want to be Holy you can't have your mind focused wholly upon worldly and carnal things, You can't grow in Holiness if you constantly looking at things of the flesh. Constantly absorbed in worldly pleasures. Constantly focused upon what you want.

If self and pleasure is all we live for, if it's the main thing we seek, if it's our only focus then we are Carnal, and Carnally minded people have no life. *"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace"*. **What do we live for?** If we have no time or interest for spiritual things. No time and no respect for the Bible and prayer. We are of the flesh. Flesh will surely die. I said earlier that Walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh is not a condition but a result of what the Lord has done for us.

The Natural man will not receive the things of God. They are foolishness to Him. The Bible says nor can he know them. The Carnal man is blinded. **What does it mean to be after the flesh to mind the things of flesh.** Often we think of it only as very bad sins as listed in Galatians 5:19-21 Adultery, fornication, sexual acts that are morally wrong depraved and perverse, Idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentious jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, Strife, sectarian divisions, Envy, murder, drunkenness, carousing or partying.

But it also means people preoccupied with only earthly things, it's not only the total and extreme unbeliever, it could also be someone who claims to be a Christian and even goes to church, they may seem to have a walk because they commit no big sins. Yet in Gods eyes they are still very much unconverted. The Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has not set them free from The Law of Sin and death. So, think of both the extreme sinner and the church goer that is unconverted. This one we are talking about, the church goer who thinks they are a Christian is totally governed by the lower nature, only earthly things consume them, In all their 'walk everywhere', in every area of their life. Their number one priority and concern that occupies their minds day and night is only earthly, perhaps career, getting wealth. They are mainly concerned only with self-advantage. Even good Christians sometimes slip into having earthly desires. But these who are unconverted Everything revolves around earthly things, their treasure is here, all they talk about is carnal, their goals their ambitions there is nothing for the Lord. Don't ask them to sacrifice their time for Gods service, they are busy don't you know! You see this one is mindful only according to the lower sinful nature, human nature. He was not mindful of the Lords work, not interested in winning the Lost, not interested in prayer, not interested in reading the Word of God. Yet when the Holy Spirit has worked a true work of salvation they have a new heart. Their mind is full of Godly things, His word, the eternal promises his instruction. This is what is

important to them. They trust God. They have been given new desires, new appetites, new goals in life have changed, their attitude towards sin changes. they loathe sin and sin is an enemy. Here we see the contrast between walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit.

V7-8 the carnal man is at enmity against God. its only interest is the flesh, and this means death. The carnal man fights against God and he finds fault with His word, he hates the things of the spirit and is hostile towards them, The carnal man cannot submit to God's ways. The Carnal man cannot please God.

While those freed and lifted out of the old hostile way, love the word of God, and they value, and they treasure it and they want to be doers of the word.

This is a good test if the spirit of God is alive in us. Have we got a desire to obey God's word, do we feel discouraged and saddened when we slip and stumble, do we seek cleansing and forgiveness when you allow the old nature (which is still present) to have its way. The old nature the carnal nature has no desire to please God and indeed cannot please God.

So, when one desires to please God, and when one wages war against the sinful nature it's a mark of salvation, it's a mark of the spirit of God alive and active in us. That is the great difference between the two kinds of people one desires to please God, things of eternity excite them more than things of this earth.

V9. The Spirit of Christ; The Supreme Test. *Romans 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.* We who have been redeemed have the spirit of God dwelling in us, *“do you not know you are a temple of the holy Spirit” 1 Corinthians 3:16. your body is a temple of the spirit you are not your own you have been bought with a price (1Cor 6:19)*

So because of this, we glorify God with our body and with our members. If any man have not the spirit then his body and his members are controlled by the law of sin dwelling in his members and He is none of His. He is not born again.

But the fact that the new nature is waring with and in conflict with the old nature is evidence we are truly born again. If there was no care if you were to fall into sin no sorrow if you fell into sin – If there was no desire to live a pleasing life to the Lord I doubt the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Some charismatics wrongly believe the ‘test’ whether you have the indwelling spirit or not is tongues they believe that it's the evidence of the indwelling spirit. But consider what we have just seen in the scripture.

I knew a man who never spoke in tongues he was a Godly man, he was honest, he was kind, he loved his family, he loved the purity of God's word, he was not selfish he lived the life to glorify

God. Do you think he had the spirit of God? He was able to pray ABBA Father Galatians 4:6 I believe his life and actions showed that he was a son of God and an heir of God through Christ Jesus. I believe this friend of mine is in heaven, I believe he has received the full redemption of his body because he was made a Holy son of God by the Spirit of God.

V10. Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

To understand this verse, we must look at all that which is before it and take it in context. Also look at cross-references and compare scripture with scripture.

Gods Adopted children have the Spirit of Christ dwelling in them and have been redeemed from the corrupt sinful nature. Christs coming set us free from the Law of sin and death. Our actions and behavior show that we belong to Him.

If all the actions of a life are carnal, selfish, worldly, fleshly, if we have no love for the things of God we can assume that they have not the Spirit. One commentator says, *Such a person does not belong to Christ and is not a Christian at all.*

Christ dwells in our hearts through faith, we are rooted and grounded in love. We are able to comprehend what *is* the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of God, that we may be filled with all the fullness of God. Eph 3:17-19

Although my body is dead and it will surely die due to Adam's sin, my spirit is full of life because of the right standing with God because of his righteousness. Because Christ was raised from the Dead I will be raised. Because Christ was glorified I will be Glorified.

We are alive to God even now. We have begun a Holy walk which will endure forever we have the spirit of God at work in us who has done so much for us and out of love and reverence for what he has done we walk after his spirit and not after the flesh.

In closing consider.

The very best that a worldly life can give us is just the moment in time, fleeting here today gone tomorrow. While walking in the Spirit after the Spirit has rich reward and is for eternity, We are indebted not to the flesh, not to the Law of Sin and death its control and power over us is broken and we have been freed to walk in Newness of Life.

Maybe you are living according to the flesh, even as a saved person, give it up at once. You have a great debt, and an obligation to God, who's delivered you not to follow the dictates of human nature, but to live walking everywhere after the Spirit.