

TOPIC: THE SPIRITUAL MAN; A MAN LED ON BY GOD'S SPIRIT.

Romans 8 vs 1 - 2

1. *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are **in Christ Jesus**, who **walk not after the flesh**, but **after the Spirit**. – It is not enough for a man just to have belief in Jesus; He must choose also to yield to the Holy Spirit, not to walk after the flesh but to live after the Spirit.

2. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

There are three things to note in this text. First, them who walk **in Christ Jesus**, them who **walk not after the flesh**, and them **who walk after the spirit**. If first of all, to be carnal or sensual means to walk after the flesh, we must examine what it means for a man to be carnal, then we'd also examine the traits of a spiritual man (a man who walks according to the course of God's Spirit through constant yielding), a man who **truly is in Christ Jesus**.

We must ask three fundamental questions:

1. What does the Bible say about carnality and sensuality, and where?
2. How has the Bible emphasized on keeping the eyes single so that the body may be full of light?
3. Why does the Bible insist fellowship with God is sweeter than wine?

The difference, what separates Light and darkness is whether a man lives as a carnal man or spiritual man. Paul describes the natural man in Eph 2:1-3. The carnal man for some reasons conforms himself to the nature of a natural man though he may be saved.

- Who is a natural man?

+ This man lives and is directed by his natural senses and therefore cannot discern the things of God (1 Cor 2:14, James 3:14-15).

+ He naturally lives by the dictates of his flesh, cannot please God (Rom 8:7-8), and is motivated by demons, under the dominion and control of the rulers of the darkness of this world (Eph 6:12).

+ The picture of a natural man is as depicted in Eph 2: 11-12; He's a man outside the love of Christ, has no hope, and is without God in this world. Eph 4:17-18 tells us that the natural man is hopeless and Godless

- Who is a carnal man?

+ A carnal man does not have his flesh subdued, yields his body as an instrument of unrighteousness under the enticement of seducing spirits, becoming slaves of such (Romans has a lot to say on this topic). In other words, this carnal man is fleshly, governed by his body and though born-again and a new creature in Christ, walks after the order of Natural men (1 Cor 3:1-3), unyielding to the Holy Spirit to the benefit of living the spirit life and attaining the spiritual nature described in Romans 8.

+ The carnal man most of the time allows the unredeemed outward man dominate the purchased inward man who is a new man in Christ and has the Holy Ghost dwelling in him dominating and ruling. As long as this continues, the carnal man will continue to remain a spiritual baby.

Understand that though the carnal man may be saved, he may be led on to believe that he is very much in Christ and dwells in him the Bible tells us that:

1. A man who lives by the flesh cannot please God
2. A man who abides not by the doctrine of Christ, does not have God. 2John 1:9
3. A man who does not love his brother is carnal (1 Cor 3:3) and abides in death (1 John 3:14)
4. To be carnally minded, to be ruled by the desires of your body, to yield one's self as instruments unto unrighteousness, and not rather yielding to the Holy Spirit in order to live out the Spirit nature, is death (Rom 8:6, 13)
5. If a man lives by the flesh, he has not the spirit of Christ, he is none of Christ. (Rom 8:9)

"IN CHRIST JESUS"

What does it mean to be in Christ Jesus? The statement "which are in Christ" must first be understood. Who is this man that is in Christ Jesus? This man is who we'd call the truly spiritual man.

- **1 John 4:15** Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.
- Also, in **John 14: 8** when Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus began by explaining his relationship with the Father (John 14 vs 8 – 14) and how **WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM**, emulates him. **John 14 vs 12 – 20**.
 1. Consequently, whoever is **IN CHRIST** by virtue of belief in Him, receives the comforter who is the Holy Spirit into his life and has the Holy Spirit dwell inside of him
John 14 vs 17: Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth in you, and shall be in you.
Eph_1:13 – 14: In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.
Which is the **earnest** of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
 2. **1 Jn_4:13** Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.
- What are the values possessed by this man who is in Christ?
 1. Newness of Life
2 CORINTHIANS 5:17
Therefore, if any man be **IN CHRIST** [there's the expression "in Christ"], he is a **NEW CREATURE**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
By virtue of the regeneration of this man's spirit, all things have become new
 2. Redemption

- Eph_1:7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
3. A life fashioned after the counsel of Heaven
Eph_1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.
Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit
Ephesians 1:8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence.
 4. Eternal safety through grace. Ephesians 2 vs 7 – 8.
Eph 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.
Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.
 5. Unhindered access to the portals of Heaven.
Ephesians 2 vs 18: For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
 6. Complete redemption from curses and authority over divinations.
Ephesians 1:21 – 23
Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete **in him**, which is the head of all principality and power.
Romans 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.
Romans 8:33 Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.
Psalms 27:1 ...the Lord is the strength of my life, whom shall I fear?
Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.
 7. A Life of Complete trust in him.
Hebrews 2:13 And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me.
Psalms 62 vs 5 My soul, wait thou only upon God: for my expectation (**all** my expectation) is from him.
 8. A life dominated by love for the brethren. 1 Peter 1 : 22, 1 John 3 : 14, 1 John 4 : 16
 9. A man destined to reign in life.
Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

- So, in summary, who is a spiritual man?

- + The spiritual man knows who he is in Christ and takes complete advantage of it.
 - + The spiritual man has drunk deeply at the fountain; He has regularly fed at the Lord's table.
- The Spiritual man has saturated himself in love, the love of God.
- + The spiritual man has supped with the Father so much so that he has come to know the Father in reality.
 - + The spiritual man knows the reality of Jesus being our High Priest (Heb 4: 14-16), as Advocate (1 John 2:1), as Intercessor (Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25), as Shepherd (Psalm 23:1, John 10:14).

+ The spiritual man has come to know the blessed intimacy of the Holy Spirit as He is unveiled through the Word

+The spiritual man recognizes and understands the in-dwelling presence of the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:4). He learns to walk in light of the word of God and remains absolutely calm and collected all of his life because he understands the Word of God stands forever sure whenever situations make things seem like it is not.

+ The spiritual man understands the place of the Holy Spirit as a Teacher; One who causes God's face to shine upon the believer through the revelation of His word. (1 Cor 2:12-13)

+ The spiritual man is governed by the word. He is the one in whom the Word has gained the ascendancy over his mind and over his body. It has brought him into harmony with the will of God, for the Word of God is the will of God.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: HOW DOES A MAN LIVE A LIFE LED ON BY THE SPIRIT?