

## **LIFEGROUP NOTES: ROMANS 8:12-13 (Part 3)**

*As ever, please use (or discard!) these ideas as is most suitable for your group. Don't feel you have to use everything.*

### **Preparing for God's Word**

1. What have you found most helpful in your own fight against sin in your life?

### **Read Romans 8:1-13**

2. Paul's command to "put to death the misdeeds of the body" (v.13) comes after the assurance that there is no condemnation for Christians (v.1). Why do we need to remind ourselves of this good news if we are to fight successfully against sin? How can we preach the gospel to ourselves every day? How does gratitude for, and confidence in, God's love weaken sin's grip on us?
3. Notice the careful wording of v.13: "...but if, *by the Spirit*, you put to death the misdeeds of the body ..." The Spirit has been given to us to enable us to keep God's law (v.4). How, in practical terms, do we rely on the Spirit's enabling?
4. Notice again in v.13 that we are to put to death the misdeeds of the body without reservation or limitation. No holding on to our favourite sins! Why is any attempt to pick and choose which sins we will deal with an attack on the Lordship of Jesus Christ? Why is it doomed to failure?
5. It is clear from vv.5-7 that the battle against sin means we have to guard our thought life (compare Romans 12:2). What do we need to keep OUT of our minds – and how, in practice, are you going about this? What do we need to be filling our minds with – and what steps are you taking to do this?
6. Finally note that for Paul, putting sin to death isn't something we do in isolation, but something we do with the help of our brothers and sisters in Christ (vv.12-13 – and be aware that the verbs in v.13 are plural – also vv.14-16 underline the idea of the church as a family). Satan loves guilty secrets – how can sharing with another Christian our struggle with a persistent sin break his blackmail and release us from sin's stranglehold? Would you ever do this? Why, or why not? Who is supporting you in your battle against sin? How can we become a church where we can look bad in the presence of love, and know that love will hold?

### **Responding in Prayer**

- Spend time celebrating the gospel, confessing sins, and seeking the Holy Spirit's help to grow in holiness. Pray that together we will be a community of grace.

*Eddie Larkman, July 2017*