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MORE THAN CONQUERORS

THE FLESH, THE SPIRIT, AND THE CHRISTIAN

Romans 8:4-13 Jeff Schreve

For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:3-4

Do you understand how the Christian life is designed to work?

1. The Lord came to deliver us from the penalty of sin.

A. We have been justified by faith in Jesus Christ.

Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

B. We have been set free from any condemnation.

And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Colossians 2:13-14

2. The Lord came to deliver us from the power of sin.

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

A. The struggle in the Christian life is with the flesh.

"Scripture uses the term FLESH in a morally evil sense to describe man's unredeemed humanness, that remnant of the old man which will remain with each believer until each receives his or her glorified body." -- John MacArthur

B. The flesh has nothing in common with the Spirit.

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because 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; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:5-8

1. The flesh is alive physically and dead spiritually.

2. The flesh knows nothing of life and peace.

3. The flesh is hostile to God and unable to please God.

C. True Christians are according to the Spirit.

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. Romans 8:9

3. Victory in the Christian life comes through the Holy Spirit.

If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. Romans 8:10-13

A. There is resurrection power living inside every Christian.

B. There is the command to deal ruthlessly with flesh.

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. Romans 13:14

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:12-14

If you don't put the flesh to death, the flesh will destroy you.