

Releasing Your True Identity

Lesson 21 – Outline

1. You can't please God if you're in the flesh.
 - A. Romans 7 describes living by your own natural, carnal ability.
 - B. That's why the results are defeat, failure, and an inability to do the desired good (Rom. 7:19).
 - C. "Who will deliver me from this flesh?"

"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Rom. 7:24).
 - D. Deliverance from the flesh comes through living by who you are in the spirit.

"I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 7:25).
2. You must walk after the Spirit (Rom. 8).

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:1).
 - A. Your spirit is the only part of you in Christ Jesus.
 - B. If you're in the spirit, there is no condemnation to you whatsoever.
3. Romans 8 is one of the most victorious chapters in the whole Bible because it's written from the perspective of your born-again spirit.
 - A. The frustration of living after the flesh described in Romans 7 is not the typical Christian life.
 - B. Romans 8 describes the typical Christian life.
4. This revelation of spirit, soul, and body unlocks so much of the Christian life.
 - A. When you understand that it was your spirit that changed, then you can begin comprehending that who you are and what you have in Christ doesn't fluctuate based on your performance.
 - B. Once you believe, you must reject the flesh and walk by who you are in the spirit.
 - C. As you cultivate a good image of who you are in Christ and it becomes real to you, you'll release and experience your true identity.

5. The Christian life is growing stronger in the spirit and weaker in the flesh.
- A. The flesh's dominance steadily diminishes as you learn to consistently depend on and draw out more of what's in your spirit.
 - B. Focus on who you are in the spirit by meditating on God's Word, and your flesh will bow the knee to the spirit's rule and reign.

“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would”
(Gal. 5:16-17).

- C. You'll break the control of the flesh as you base your identity and potential on what the Word says about who you are in Christ.
- D. Instead of being controlled by your old carnal self, your spirit man will begin to dominate.

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Lesson 21 – Discipleship Questions

1. What question does Paul ask in Romans 7:24?
2. According to Romans 7:25, what is the answer?
3. What word in Romans 8:1 refers back to what has previously been said?
4. How much condemnation is there now for those who are in Christ Jesus?
 - A. Much.
 - B. Little.
 - C. Some.
 - D. None.
5. Do we walk after the flesh or after the Spirit?
6. Which part of our beings is in Christ Jesus?
7. Which word describes Romans 7?
 - A. Frustration
 - B. Flesh.
 - C. Struggle.
 - D. All of the above.
 - E. None of the above.
8. Which word describes Romans 8?
 - A. Victory.
 - B. Spirit.
 - C. Love.
 - D. All of the above.
 - E. None of the above.
9. According to Galatians 5:16-17, how are we to walk?
10. What happens automatically—as a byproduct—as we walk this way?
11. What does the flesh lust against?
12. What does the Spirit lust against?

13. What one word in verse 17 best describes this relationship between the Spirit and the flesh?
14. What results from this?
15. According to Proverbs 28:1, what does the wicked do?
16. Who is as bold as a lion?
17. List the seven characteristics given of the Holy Spirit in Isaiah 11:2.

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Lesson 21 – Scriptures

“For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do”
(Rom. 7:19).

“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin” (Rom. 7:24-25).

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

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” (Gal. 5:16-17).

“The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion” (Prov. 28:1).

“And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD” (Is. 11:2).