

# Two ways to live

***Romans 8:5-11***

# Contrasts

- A contrast = direct opposites
  - Black/white, light/darkness, open/closed
- Paul contrasts “flesh/Spirit”
- Deeper than surface level
- Made possible by Jesus and Holy Spirit

# Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- Day of Pentecost = Holy Spirit's ministry (John 16:7-11)
- Romans 8:1-4 (context)
  - “No condemnation”
  - Set free by the Spirit
  - Righteousness fulfilled
  - Christians “walk” according to the Spirit

## Romans 8:5-11

<sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> 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.

# The BIG contrast

- Paul contrasts (compares) two ways to live
- Greek “pneuma” = “Spirit” or “spirit”
- Verse 5 starts with “for” = because
- “Flesh” = sinful orientation/desires

Driven by the “flesh”

or

Driven by the “Spirit”

*Characteristics*

# Living according to the FLESH

- *A mind set on things of the flesh (5a)...*
- Results in death (6)
- Is hostile to God (7a)
- Does not submit to God (7b)
- Cannot submit to God's law (7c)
- Cannot please God (8)
- Does not belong to God (9b)



# Living according to the SPIRIT

- *A mind set mind on the things of the Spirit (5b)*
- Experience life and peace (6)
- Have God's Spirit dwell in them (9)
- Spiritually alive in "dead" body (10a)
- Received God's righteousness of God (10b)
- Have resurrection hope (11)

# Two lives compared

1. Mind on the flesh
2. Death
3. Hostile to God
4. Does not submit to God
5. Cannot submit to God's Law
6. Cannot please God
7. Does not belong to God

1. Mind on the Spirit
2. Life & peace
3. Indwelling Spirit
4. Fulfilled righteousness
5. Obedient to the Spirit
6. Spiritually alive
7. Will be raised to life

# It's the mind!

- Verse 5: The “mind” (Phil 2:5)
- Greek = “to exercise the mind, i.e. entertain or have a sentiment or opinion; by implication, to be (mentally) disposed; intensively, to interest oneself in...”
- Life orientation, focus, driving force
- Not by keeping laws, but “being born of the Spirit” (John3:3&6)

# The process

- **Start:** Born again (John 3:3)
- **Journey** (“walk” 8:4): Grow as a Christian
- **Orientation:** Behave according Spirit-given nature
- **Purpose:** Become more like Jesus
- **Goal:** Join God in heaven (eternal life)

# Evaluation

- Test 1: Am I born of the Spirit (true Christian)?
- Test 2: Am I growing in Christ?
  - Do I look and behave like a follower of Jesus?
  - Does my mind (life, desires, heart) reflect the Spirit?
  - Are there behaviours or habits that need change?
  - Do I have the mind of Christ (1 Cor 2:16)?

# Prayer