

Family honour

Romans 8:12-17

Family is important

- It matters from which family you come
- True for businesses, companies & countries
- Same for Christians: We represent God

Romans 8:12-17

¹² So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

We are in debt

- Logical transitions
 - Two kinds of life (vv5-11)
 - “So then” = repaying debt (v12)
- Bad debt vs “good” debt
- Paul states it negatively: Don’t sin any more
- Positively: We owe God and repay by living for Him

Work of the Holy Spirit

- We can't "repay" God for salvation
- Repayment = gratitude
- The Holy Spirit enables a life lived for God
- It's a Spirit-driven or Spirit-filled life

Our behaviour (how we live) is determined by our being (who we are), and who we are is the work of the Holy Spirit

Truths of the Spirit-filled life

Spirit-filled life determines our behaviour

- “Flesh-focused-living” results in death (v13)
- Spirit-filled life reflects our relationship with God
- Behaviour reflects the one I owe (my debt) (v12)
 - If the Devil, I live in sin (v13)
 - If God, I live in gratitude for his glory (vv5-6)
- Like a tree and fruit

Spirit-filled behaviour requires action

- Living for God requires effort, action, focus
- I must learn to live according to my new nature
- Therefore: “*Put to death the deeds of the body*” (v13b)
- Possible only by the Holy Spirit (v13a)

Spirit-filled life changes our being

- The Spirit we received works in us (v15a):
- **Led by the Spirit (14)**
- **Adopted via the Spirit** as children of God (15)
- **Witness of the Spirit (16)**

Spirit-filled life gives us many privileges

- **Belonging** (Abba Father - v15b)
- **Inheriting** (heirs of God, Chris - v16a)
- **Identification** (suffer - v16b)

Reflection

- My Privileges
 - Assurance: No doubt
 - Relationship: God as Father
 - Hope: Eternal inheritance
- My Responsibilities
 - Holiness: Live “according to the Spirit”
 - Identification: Living and suffering for Jesus

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever.

Amen

Communion

- **Confirmation:** I am part of God's family
- **Evaluation:** Is my life consistent with my faith?
- **Confession:** Any sins that come to mind
- **Remembrance:** Thank Jesus