

## Romans

Dr. Charles "Buddy" Parrish  
November 20, 2024  
Romans 8:5-11



Vss. 5-8

- The line has been drawn between “the flesh” and “the Spirit”.
- The life dominated by the flesh is a life dominated by sinful human nature. The focus here is entirely upon the Self. It’s about what I want and what I am sure I deserve. Ultimately it is a life filled with cravings that are never satisfied and can never be satisfied. It is a life that seeks to take whatever it wants without apology. Ambition, pride, desire, greed are the fuel for this life. What does Ebenezer Scrooge have in common with Don Juan? More than you think! Scrooge was driven by profit. He paid only one employee and paid him poorly, with no thought as to whether it was a living wage. He had coal for heat, but required more coats rather than spending money on coal. He had no concern for his own family, his employee, the poor, or anyone. Don Juan was driven by hedonistic pleasure. He too gave no thought to the welfare of others. Men were to be relieved of their money at cards or other games of chance. Women were to be used and cast aside, no matter if they were married or widowed or virgins. Whether they were hurt or their marriage or reputation damaged was of no concern. Both men lived totally by whatever selfish impulse drove them and nothing else nor anyone mattered in the least. Other people were simply to be used as a means to an end.
- The life dominated by the Spirit has only one desire and that is to do the will of the Father. Christ is the atmosphere in which this life lives. Paul in his sermon in Athens says that God is He in whom we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). This is a life whose priorities are set and arranged by the Spirit. This is a life whose goals and values are set by the Spirit. How this person spends their money, spends their time, and spends their energy are all determined by the Spirit. It is a life where you realize that its not about you in any way.
- When the line is drawn this way, we need to see it not as a mere line, but as a great chasm. The life of the flesh and the life of the Spirit are so dramatically far apart that they can barely even speak to each other, not primarily out of animosity, but because the meanings of the words are so very different. “Fun” means one thing to people on one side of the chasm and something completely different to those on the other side. Because of all this, those living the life of the flesh are utterly disconnected from God. Indeed their minds are completely hostile to God and they have no clue as to how please God, even if they had the compulsion to do so.

- The tell-tale sign as to whether a person is saved is whether the Spirit lives in them. IF the Spirit is in you, He will not be hidden. His presence, His “fruits” will be evident. This is how John is able to so confidently say, “By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious...” (1 John 3:10).
- At this point Paul seems to hear the voice of his unseen Jewish opponent again: “You say that the life of the Spirit is a life of Life and Peace, yet all men die, do they not? Sooner or later Life ends and it rarely ends in Peace.” To this anticipated objection Paul replies, “Yes, but if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, still 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 from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you” (vss.10-11).
- The Spirit is supernatural. He cannot be killed. Therefore, given that this same Spirit that was with Jesus is also with you, He will raise you to Life just as He raised Jesus.
- In John 14-16, Jesus is speaking with the disciples about how the time has come for Him to go, but He tells them not to worry because the Father is going to send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells them some of the advantages they will have once the Spirit comes to them. In fact, Jesus tells the 12 plainly in John 16:7 that it was actually to their advantage that He was going away, because they would be so much stronger and better with the Spirit.
- And it is important for everyone to remember, because we often tend to be so detrimentally self-deprecating, that the power of the Holy Spirit is for everyone, not just for some supposed Super Disciples. At Pentecost it is Peter who gets so much of the attention, but the fact remains that the Holy Spirit fell upon the **whole** church, not just a few, and it was the whole church who spilled out into the streets speaking in the power of the Spirit.