

## June 3, Full Sermon Zoom English Manuscript: Romans 8:12–15

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Now, let's open our Bibles to Romans chapter 8.

And we are going to consider verses 12 to 15 today.

I'd like you to go ahead and read these verses, Romans 8:12–15.

Before we get into looking at these verses in more detail...

Let us quickly review the book of Romans.

Chapters 1, 2, and 3 develop the doctrine of a universal problem we all have with our own indwelling sin nature.

Then chapters 4 and 5 explain salvation by grace through faith.

And then chapters 6 through 8 explain the ongoing process of sanctification by the Spirit and by His Word.

Chapters 9 to 11 talk about God's sovereignty and God's mercy.

And then, the rest of the book—chapters 12 to the end—are pure application in the Christian life.

Alright, I'm just adding some notes here. Very good. Okay.

Chapter 8 in Romans is a hinge. It's a connecting chapter.

It is the climax of Paul's teaching on the Spirit-filled life.

In chapter 8, verses 1 to 11, we are no longer condemned because we are in Christ.

We are no longer condemned because we are indwelt by the Spirit.

Then verses 12 to 15, what we are considering today:

We are no longer under obligation to the flesh, but we are adopted children of God.

And then the rest of chapter 8, from 16 to the end:

The Spirit assures us, encourages us, and suffering refines us—purifies us.

To the point that we can appreciate that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

This is very exciting teaching and shows the way we should live.

I'd like to re-read verse 12.

Whenever you see the word “then” in your Bible, that means “therefore.”

In my Bible translation, it has the two words—“So then.”

This reminds us to look back—why is it saying what it said?

We're encouraged to go back to verse 11 and review what that is teaching.

Can you read verse 11?

We can appreciate and need to live with the knowledge that what we once were no longer has any claim on us.

We are not under obligation whatsoever.

We are under no obligation to do what our sinful nature urges us to do.

We are under obligation to God's pure mercy and grace.

With this, let's pause and ask the Lord to direct the rest of our meeting.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for this time together.

I ask that You would help us to see now, once again,

What You have made us in Your Son.

Help us to find the comfort and the strength in our new relationship with You as our Heavenly Father.

I pray that these truths would work themselves out in daily application with a transformed life.

Help all of us, Lord—my brothers, their families, their churches...

And myself.

In Jesus' name we ask these things. Amen.

Okay, very good. We owe nothing to our sinful nature.

This verse 12 says, we are under obligation not to the flesh to live according to the flesh.

I hope we can remember that our flesh never gave us life.

Only produces death.

We remember what Romans 6:23 says:

The wages of sin is death—what we deserve because of sin brings its final payment: separation from God.

We need to stop making excuses for our own sin.

Now let's read verse 13.

Here we have two promises—very divine promises.

There are two ways to live.

If you live according to the flesh, you will die. You will be separated from close communion with God.

The other choice is to live under the control of the Holy Spirit.

And if by the Spirit's power we put to death the deeds of the body, we will live.

Living according to the flesh leads to death.

But living by the Spirit brings life.

The flesh represents our sinful nature.

While the Spirit represents our new life in Christ.

Living by the flesh is the same as physical and spiritual ruin—or death.

Living by the Spirit produces abundant life now—and forever.

In verse 13, there's an active process—a daily process of putting to death the practices of the body.

We call this “mortifying.”

Let's go to Colossians chapter 3 and read verse 5.

We are to consider our flesh as no longer alive. We crucify it. It's mortified with God's help.

As Paul says, he is crucified together with Christ in Galatians 2:20.

Okay, very good. We need to put to death what is earthly or fleshly in our lifestyle.

We must actively choose to live by the Spirit.

Resisting the desires of the flesh.

This involves a daily surrender and reliance on the Holy Spirit's power.

Let's remember—the person who is addicted to a dominating vice or sinful desire and decisions...

The drug addict, or the person addicted to pornography...

Must make daily choices to avoid the triggers of falling into the trap.

The flesh is weak, and we need God's presence and power to ensure us the victory.

When we choose the Spirit, we are choosing life.

Like cancer, sin must be aggressively treated.

And like cancer, when it is ignored, it just grows.

Now, let's read Romans 8:14.

Here we have a glorious declaration of our new identity in Christ.

Being led by the Spirit of God is allowing His power to transform us.

Being led by the Spirit is not mystical.

Being led by the Spirit is simply obeying the Spirit's voice through the Holy Scriptures.

When we allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit and follow the Spirit's direction through His Word,

This verse then confirms that we truly belong to God.

Those who are being led by the Spirit of God—these are the true sons of God.

It's not just merely or only professing with our mouth that we believe in God.

This is talking about a lifestyle of purposely choosing to follow Jesus Christ and His instruction through His Word.

Let's turn to Galatians chapter 5 and read verses 16 to 18.

If we are in the Spirit, the Spirit overcomes the desires of the flesh, and we're not under the law anymore.

Actually, the law works itself out in us as we willingly humble ourselves to God's direction.

In Galatians 5, we have the same idea—walking in the Spirit or gratifying the flesh.

Now, let's go on to Romans 8:15.

Can you appreciate Paul's progressive, glorious teaching from verse 11 down to verse 15?

Let's remember what Romans 8:1 tells us:

There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, we don't have the spirit of bondage or slavery.  
We are under no more fear of condemnation.

We have intimacy and access to God Himself.

The word "Abba" is a Hebrew word.

"Ab" was "Father."

"Abraham" is a magnified form of Father—meaning the father of nations.

In Hebrew, the first two letters of the alphabet are Aleph and Bet—A and B.

When you put the first two letters together, you have the first word in Hebrew—“Ab,” which means Father.

And when you want to intensify it and make it more intimate, you repeat the letters in reverse order—and say “Abba.”

You can hear little children calling their fathers “Abba” in Israel today.

“Abba” is understood to be a loving reference to Father.

It’s like a child calling his father “Daddy. Daddy! Daddy!”

This is the privilege that we have in being in Christ and walking in the Spirit.

The flesh and the law and the spirit of slavery only promote fear.

But life in the Spirit promotes intimacy, access, and true life.

The word “adoption” in Roman law gave full legal rights to an inheritance.

Let’s turn to Galatians chapter 4 and read verses 4 through 7.

Here again—Jesus Christ came so that we could be made the sons of God.

Let’s remember what John chapter 1, verse 12 says:

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

Receiving without believing is completely useless.

Let’s, for the few minutes we have left in our meeting today...

I want to begin to make a few practical applications.

These verses encourage us to stop feeding the flesh.

Let’s go to Romans chapter 13 and read verse 14.

We are to make no provision for the flesh—to be consumed by its destructive, lustful power.

We are to fight sin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Don't try to defeat sin by your own human willpower.

We need to yield—to the Spirit's control through prayer, meditation in the Scripture, and being honest with one another.

Being led by the Spirit implies being governed by the Holy Spirit.

The emphasis is the activity of the Spirit and the passivity of ourselves. God's Spirit is working to transform and renew our minds.

Being led by the Spirit is God's power and responsibility.

But putting to death the deeds of the body in verse 13—this is our activity.

Being led by the Spirit is when we participate with the Spirit to say "No" to sin.

These two actions—the Spirit's active power and our allowing Him to change us—

By obeying what He tells us we should do and how we should act and think.

These are complementary actions. They work together.

Our obedience to put to death the deeds of the flesh—this is evidence of the Spirit's activity in our lives.

And at the same time, the activity of the Spirit is the cause for our own obedience.

Let me finish with one final illustration.

Trying to overcome sin without the Spirit's power is like trying to push a car without starting the engine.

You've all pushed your motorcycles when they've broken down or run out of gas.

You don't do it for very long. If you go uphill, it's very hard.

But if you start the engine, all you have to do is get on—and allow the engine to take you, and you follow its direction.

Our Heavenly Father is known to us as our Daddy—in love and in close access and care for us.

A little child learns of his father as “Daddy.”

And when the father responds in love and care and truth—with his child—

We can always be assured that God will always be faithful to His character.

And as a child grows, he appreciates the reverence of who his father is.

He is still “Daddy,” but he is also my Father, whom I respect, love, and choose to obey.

Okay, this type of relationship with God through His Spirit defines our daily walk with Him.

Can you ask Brother Gabriel or someone to close us in prayer?

Amen, amen. I am very honored to be able to review this for my own benefit—as much as I pray it’s for your edification.

Thank you, Pastor.