

# Sermon Outline: Romans 8:12–15

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## Title:

*Living by the Spirit: Our New Identity and Obligation*

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## Introduction

- Invite the congregation to open their Bibles to Romans 8:12–15.
- Quick overview of the Book of Romans:
  - Chapters 1–3: The universal problem of sin.
  - Chapters 4–5: Salvation by grace through faith.
  - Chapters 6–8: Sanctification by the Spirit.
  - Chapters 9–11: God’s sovereignty and mercy.
  - Chapters 12–16: Practical Christian living.
- Chapter 8 is a pivotal chapter—it connects doctrine with practical application.

## I. No Longer Obligated to the Flesh (v.12)

- “Therefore” points back to the truths of verse 11.
- The flesh never gave us life; it only produces death (Romans 6:23).
- We owe the flesh nothing.
- Application: Stop making excuses for sin.

## II. Called to Live by the Spirit (v.13)

- Two ways to live:
  1. According to the flesh = death
  2. By the Spirit = life
- This is a daily choice, not automatic.
- We must “put to death” sinful practices (Colossians 3:5; Galatians 2:20).
- Application: Remove sinful habits by the Spirit’s power.
- Illustration: Sin must be treated like cancer—aggressively and consistently.

## III. Led by the Spirit and Identified as God’s Children (v.14)

- Being led by the Spirit means obeying the Spirit through Scripture.
- The evidence of being a child of God is a Spirit-led life.
- Galatians 5:16–18: The Spirit helps us overcome the flesh.
- Application: Choose to follow God’s direction each day.

#### **IV. Adopted into God's Family (v.15)**

- Contrast: Spirit of fear vs. spirit of adoption.
- "Abba" reflects tender intimacy with our Father.
- Romans 8:1: No condemnation for those in Christ.
- Galatians 4:4–7; John 1:12: Adoption and inheritance as God's children.
- Application: Relate to God with love, trust, and respect as a child to a good father.
- Illustration: A child knows his father as "Daddy" but grows to respect him deeply.

#### **Conclusion and Application**

- Romans 13:14: Make no provision for the flesh.
- Yield to the Spirit daily through:
  - Prayer
  - Meditation on Scripture
  - Accountability and honesty
- Living by the Spirit is God's work and our responsibility.
- Illustration: Trying to live holy without the Spirit is like pushing a car without starting the engine. But when the engine is on, you simply ride and follow its direction.

#### **Call to Action**

- Evaluate your daily walk: Are you living by the flesh or by the Spirit?
- Trust God's grace to empower your obedience.
- Rejoice in your adoption—you are God's beloved child.

#### **Closing Prayer**

- Ask God to help us walk daily in our new identity and to follow the Spirit's leading with joy and faith.