

The Assurance of the Spirit

Key Scriptures

Romans 8:5-13 ⁵ 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, the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

¹¹ 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.

¹² Therefore, brethren, 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.

1 Cor. 2:14 The unbeliever does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. And he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Key Point: The Holy Spirit is the believers greatest assurance, security, and the agent of change in his or her life.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- Just for fun, (in light of the cold winter) what is your favorite hot beverage (or cold beverage). Why do you like yours better than what others in the group like to drink? 😊 Can you convince others to try your drink?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Verse 6 states that to be carnally (fleshly) minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. How do the following verses explain these two opposite states?
- Where and how do you see the Trinity mentioned in this passage? Does this change your understanding of how God interacts in your own life?
- In v. 12, Paul mentions clearly where we are not debtors, but he doesn't immediately say where we do have an obligation or debt. Are we debtors? (see v. 13) If so, what is our response?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What does 1 Corinthians 2:12 tell us about a non-Christian's ability to understand spiritual truths? What does that tell you about your own ability to convince a person to believe the gospel?
If you can't convince someone about the truth, does it give you the freedom not to share?
- The way Paul describes life in the Spirit, we have every reason to be confident, no matter what challenges we face. What evidence of this confidence should we see in the life of a believer?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- Kyle mentioned that the union we have with the Spirit in us, means that we need to change how we think. How can you implement "we" thinking instead of "I" thinking this week?

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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