

What Makes Us Different?

Romans 8:5-8

- I. Those who walk according to the flesh think according to the flesh.
 - a. There is a considerable problem, even in the church, with people thinking like the world.
 - i. Throughout the New Testament, we find many places that tell us to be holy, sanctified, set apart, called out, etc.
 - ii. We often think of this as doing different things than the world. Many people take this idea to an extreme (the Amish).
 1. However, it is not always the *action* that makes us worldly; it is often the *mindset*.
 - b. The mindset of the flesh is death.
 - i. If you look at your Bibles in verse six, you might notice that “is” is in italics. This means that the word is implied from the Greek text, though it does not appear in the Greek text used for translation.
 1. Greek grammar does not require that the verb for “be” appear every time the idea is implied. It is often the case that sentences will consist only of a noun and adjective, implying the verb (“God is faithful”). So this is common.
 2. What happens, then, is that the passage may be interpreted a little differently.
 - a. Does this mean that the mindset of the flesh *results in* death?
 - b. Does this mean that the mindset of the flesh *is [already]* death?
 - i. Let us discuss these.
 - ii. The mindset of the flesh *results in* death.
 1. Romans 6:21 – Living according to the world results in spiritual death (and physical death).
 - a. In Proverbs 14:12, we read that “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but its end are the ways of death.”
 - b. Galatians 6:8 – He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap *corruption*.
 - i. Corruption here does not mean that he will reap rotten fruit if you will, but that he will corrupt, wilt, and die, as a result of sowing to his flesh.
 - iii. The mindset of the flesh *is* death.
 1. Romans 6:13 – When we become Christians, we ought to commend ourselves to God as being alive from the dead.
 - a. This means we were already dead!
 - i. What is the biblical description of death?
 1. James 2:26 – “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
 2. Death is a separation.
 - a. When we die, our spirits are separated from our bodies.
 - b. When we become Christians, we are to separate ourselves from the sins we once committed.
 - c. So also, the mindset of the flesh is death, in that it *separates* us from God.
 - i. What happened when Peter had a fleshly mindset?
 - ii. Jesus said, “Get thou behind me, Satan!” – Jesus wanted to be separated from Peter’s worldly thinking, so Peter’s mindset separated him from Christ.

- a. Jesus said, “if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”
 - i. In English at one time, “will” was used with a volitional force. What this means is that “he will” meant that “he is determined to” do something, while “he shall” meant that “he is going to” do something. Since the KJV was written while this was in use, it is helpful to recognize this. We may read this as “is willing to” or “is determined to” instead of “will.”
 - 1. If any man is willing to come after me...
 - 2. Whoever is determined to save his life shall lose it.
 - 3. Whoever is willing to lose his life for my sake shall find it.
 - a. I was telling Dale this morning that I could not imagine doing what he and Chevy and many others are doing for our country. Yet, as I think about it, I better be doing what they are doing, for God, for he tells us to be willing to lay our lives on the line for his kingdom.
 - i. Peter told Jesus right before the crucifixion, “Though all be offended, yet *will I* not be offended.”
 - 1. He was determined. He had his mind set on following Christ.
 - 2. As a result, when he did make a mistake (even the same one three times) he was forgiven because he had the right mindset. He had one that was able to subject itself to God and turn away from his sins and be forgiven.
 - 3. Do you have a mindset like that today? The English word “repent” means simply to “rethink.”
 - a. You can reset your mind, and set it on the spiritual things, so that you have no need to worry about the way things will work out.
 - b. If you do get worried about things, read Matthew 6:25-34. It tells us that we really have no need to worry if we are faithful to God. If we trust him, he will take care of us. But we must first seek his kingdom and righteousness.
- IV. If you have lived shamefully and sinfully, and your thoughts have been on worldly things, change that mindset, and start doing those things necessary to set you on a right course toward heaven.
- V. If you have not become a Christian, you must believe that the Jesus of Nazareth mentioned in the Bible was the Messiah, the Christ, the one “chosen” to bring salvation into the world through the forgiveness of sins. Having done that and expressed that belief, you may be immersed in water, symbolizing the death of your old life and its ways, the burial of that body, and the resurrection of your new self to a life filled with good works prepared for you to do. That baptism not only is a symbol of death, however.
- VI. It washes away your sins, because it is an obedient act that God requires before offering his forgiveness of your sins.
 - a. Think about Naaman, who was a Syrian commander with leprosy. He was commanded to dip (baptize) in the Jordan River seven times. When he came up the seventh time, he was cleansed of his disease.
 - i. We only have to dip once. When we come up out of these waters, we are cleansed from all of the sins that we have committed.
- VII. It may be that you just want to study. If that is the case, let me know after services, and I will be glad to do what I can to help. There is a lot to think about here in these verses. Think about it seriously, and if you think you need to right some wrongs in your life, be baptized, or ask for prayers, do so now.