**Spiritually Minded**

*Romans 8:6*

**Introduction**

1. ***“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace”* (Romans 8:6).**
   1. As Christians, it is our desire to be at peace with God, and as such have life spiritually.
   2. To be spiritually dead is to be separate from God – carnal mindedness produces such.
   3. We must be ***“spiritually minded”*** if we wish to be alive with God. Therefore, we must know what this means.
2. **Chapter 7:7-25** dealt with the struggle man has with sin, and his condition under the Law of Moses.
   1. **7:21-24** – There is a struggle between the spirit and the flesh. ***(“For the flesh lusts against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish” Galatians 5:16***).
      1. **Without Christ, under the Old Law (or any other law for that matter), when the flesh dominates the spirit we fall under the dominion of sin (cf. 6:16 – Slaves of sin).**
      2. *This is not something inherent, nor is it something forced upon us, it is a choice we make.*
      3. **(v. 24)** – *Describes Paul before becoming a Christian. Under the Old Law. (Also a description of any without Christ. There is no help, nor hope, except with Christ.)*
         1. He is without hope.
         2. He is helpless.
   2. **7:25** – Through Christ we can be released from the dominion of sin.
      1. This is further explained in the next chapter.
      2. **How are we delivered through Christ?**
      3. **Who is delivered through Christ?**
3. Three Laws **(v. 1-4)**
4. *“Spirit of life”* and *“sin and death”* **(v. 2)**
   1. **(v. 1)** – no condemnation in Christ, but condemnation without Christ.
      1. **7:7-12** – The Old Law was meant to direct us toward a spiritual life.
         1. **This does not illustrate an individual without choice.**
         2. It illustrates an individual who decides to do something he knows is sin. (**v. 13** – *Which shows how terrible sin is – A choice to rebel against God’s command*.)
         3. **Sin brings forth death, or condemnation – Under OT there is condemnation, but Christ can take that away.**
      2. The key is to be found ***“in Christ.”*** 🡪
   2. **(v. 2)** – freedom from sin and death.
      1. ***“law of sin and death”*** – being dominated by sin which produces death.
         1. **7:23** – satisfying the lusts of the flesh which enslaves us to sin that brings forth death.
         2. **6:20-21** – slaves of sin – end is death.
      2. ***“law of the Spirit”*** – (HS) frees from sin and death = salvation.
         1. What brings salvation? – **1:16-17**
         2. **The obedience to the gospel frees us from sin and death!**
5. Righteous Requirement of Old Law **(v. 3-4)**
   1. **Law of verse 3** = Old Law/Law of Moses/Old Testament
      1. **Righteous Requirement** – *contrast with freeing from law of sin and death* – Old Law could not do that.
         1. Righteousness under OT only fulfilled in perfect obedience.
         2. **Righteous = no sin – right before God. (Only way to be right before God without Christ is to be perfect.)**
      2. **How is that requirement fulfilled? I.e. how do we become blameless before God?**
         1. Can’t happen under OT.
         2. **(v. 4)** – Jesus sent as sin sacrifice!
   2. That ***“righteous requirement”*** (to be blameless) is fulfilled through Jesus in those ***“who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the spirit.”*** 🡪
6. Spiritually Minded **(v. 5-9)**
7. Mind of flesh or spirit? **(v. 5-8)**
   1. The ***“righteous requirement”*** is fulfilled because **(v. 6)** – life and peace.
   2. ***“spirit”*** refers to the spirit of man when set as the counterpart of ***“flesh”*** – so it is in this case.
      1. **(v. 5)** – ***“God is Spirit” (John 4:24)***, and we are spirit (**image of God**).
         1. Our purpose is spiritual, given to us by God – to please Him.
         2. **Spiritually minded** – concerned with things of our spirit.
         3. **Fleshly minded** – concerned with satisfying flesh.
      2. **(v. 7-8)** – carnal, or fleshly, mind cannot be subject to law of God – *law of God is spiritual.*
         1. **In order to obey God – to please God – we must think spiritually.**
         2. **We can’t submit to a spiritual Being and His law with a fleshly mind.**
      3. **To be spiritually minded is to view life through a spiritual lens. We are not thinking about the life that will fade away, but the life that will continue to be for eternity. We act accordingly – *for the well-being of our spirits.***
8. Are you Christ’s? **(v. 9)**
   1. Who is the one that is living life with a spiritual mindset? 🡪
      1. **(v. 9a)** spirit = man’s spirit (contrasted with flesh)
      2. **(v. 9b)** Holy Spirit = Spirit OF GOD
   2. The one who has the ***“Spirit of God”*** (HS) in him. (Spirit of Christ is Spirit of God)
      1. **The HS dwells in us as we submit to His teaching in obedience.**
      2. We only do this if we are ***“spiritually minded”*** – concerned with spiritual things.
9. ***If the HS/Spirit of Christ is in us, something has occurred 🡪***
10. Debtors to the spirit **(v. 10-17)**
11. Death and Resurrection **(v. 10-11)**
    1. **(v. 10)** – Our spirit was dead (*spiritual death*) because we lived according to the flesh.
       1. We put to death the flesh (*deeds of flesh*) to be made alive according to the spirit. ***(“spirit”*** *= spirit of man – because it is contrasted with* ***“body”)***
       2. ***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).***
       3. ***“And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24).***
       4. **(cf. 6:1-2)** – essentially the same thing. ***“died to sin”*** = ***“body is dead because of sin”***
       5. Spirit is life – because it has been made righteous (**cf. v. 4** – *sins have been blotted out through the sacrifice of Christ*).
    2. **(v. 11)** – body is made alive to righteousness.
       1. Can’t concern resurrection in last day – ***“mortal bodies”*** not immortal ***(“this mortal must put on immortality” 1 Corinthians 15:53***).
       2. **Cf. 6:4** – ***“newness of life”*** – spiritual, but concerns the putting to use of our bodies as well.
          1. **6:13** – members concerning the faculties of the body.
          2. **Our bodies were once serving sin – put to death – made alive to serve God.**
          3. **This is possible because of the indwelling of *“the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus.”***
12. Indebted to the spirit – in order to live **(v. 12-17)**
    1. **(v. 12-13)** – in order to have spiritual life we are debtors to the spirit.
       1. **We must be spiritually minded because fleshly mindedness is death.**
       2. We must then decide to put to death the ***“deeds of the body.”***
       3. ***“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth” (Colossians 3:5)***.
       4. **This is a continuous thing** – *every time we are tempted to fulfill the fleshly lusts, we must put to death the flesh, and allow the spirit to take control.*
    2. **(v. 14-15)** – we are sons of God because we do what He says.
       1. ***“spirit”*** = disposition
       2. Disposition of bondage = fear
       3. Disposition of adoption = appeal to God ***“Abba, Father”***
       4. **Instead of being moved by fear as slaves, we are moved by confident assurance and trust in God as Father.**
    3. **(v. 16-17)** – as children of God (because we are spiritually minded), we are heirs of God with Christ – to Glory.
       1. Our sonship, or ***“adoption”*** as sons, ***is confirmed by the HS telling us what to do, and our disposition as sons to do it.***
       2. Because we are willing to submit to God’s commands in spiritual mindedness we have the hope as heirs.

**Conclusion**

1. Without Christ we were dead – having a fleshly mind to fulfil the desires of the flesh – we lived for the flesh.
2. However, in order to be saved we set our mind on spiritual things and did what God said to do – obey the gospel and receive forgiveness in Christ.
3. In order to continue to have spiritual life we must be spiritually minded – we must have the spiritual man as our priority – not fulfilling fleshly lusts, but following the will of God.
   1. **Christians are to think about life in a spiritual way.**
   2. **The world lives in such a way that serves, and is concerned about, this temporary life only. (Fleshly mindedness)**
   3. **We must live for the eternal – i.e. the spiritual man!**