



Defiant or Devoted? The Two Mindsets of Humanity

Romans 8:5-8

I. Driven by the Flesh or Directed by the Spirit (v. 5)

A. The operating principle of the _____ (v. 5a)
[1 Cor. 3:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Jn. 3:14; Gal. 5:16-17, 24; Lk. 9:23]

1. Those who hold to the idea of “*carnal Christians*” teach that there are two classes of believers:

- The “_____ Christian” — who has surrendered fully to Christ and lives victoriously
- The “_____ Christian” — who has accepted Christ as Savior, but not as Lord; who still lives under the power of sin, yet supposedly remains saved

2. Paul divides humanity into two groups only

- Those who live *according to the* _____ (v. 5) — they set their minds on sin, and they are hostile to God (v. 7), and they *cannot please Him* (v.8)
- Those who live *according to the* _____ (v. 5) — they set their minds on the things of the Spirit, have life and peace (v. 6), and they belong to Christ (v. 9)

3. Scripture consistently presents salvation as a radical heart change:

- “If anyone is in Christ, he is a _____ creation” (2 Cor. 5:17)

b) “We know that we have _____ out of death into life, because we love the brothers” (1 Jn. 3:14)

c) “Those who are Christ’s have _____ the flesh with its passions and desires” (Gal. 5:24)

B. The operating principle of the _____ (v. 5b)
[1 Cor. 2:12-14; Gal. 5:22-25]

- The _____: We think differently — truth replaces lies (Rom. 12:2)
- The _____: We love differently — holiness replaces indulgence (1 Pet. 1:14-15)
- The _____: We live differently — God’s pleasure replaces our own (2 Cor. 5:9)

II. A Mindset of Death or a Mindset of Life (v. 6)

A. To be carnally minded is _____ (v. 6a) [Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13]

- Leviticus 20:23 says God “_____ them”
- Psalms 5:5 says He “_____ all evildoers”
- Psalms 11:5 says “His soul _____ the wicked and the one who loves violence”
- Proverbs 3:32 says, “For the devious person is an _____ to the LORD”
- Hosea 9:15 says, “Every evil of theirs is in Gilgal; there I began to _____ them”

B. To be spiritually minded is _____ and _____ (v. 6b)
[Rom. 8:38-39]

- Psalms 4:8 says, “In _____ I will both lie down and sleep”
- Psalms 119:165 says, “_____ peace have those who love your law”

3. Isaiah 26:3 says, “You keep him in _____ peace whose mind is stayed on you”
4. John 14:27 says, “Peace I _____ with you, my peace I give to you”
5. Philippians 4:7 says, “And the peace of God, which _____ all understanding will guard your hearts...minds...in Christ...”

III. Defiant Toward God or Devoted to God (vv. 7-8)

A. Those who are in the flesh

1. _____ to God (v. 7a) [Jms. 4:4]
2. _____ of God’s law (v. 7b) [Prov. 14:12; Gal. 5:17]
3. _____ of obeying (v. 7c) [Eph. 2:1; 1 Cor. 2:14; Jn. 6:44]
4. _____ to please God (v. 8) [Rom. 7:5; Isa. 64:6]

B. Those who are in the Spirit (v. 9a)

1. _____ of God (Rom. 5:1; Jms. 2:23; Jn. 15:14-15)
2. _____ to God’s law (Ezek. 36:27; Psa. 119:97; Jn. 14:15)
3. _____ in obedience (Phil. 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:10)
4. _____ to please God (2 Cor. 5:9; Col. 1:10; 1 Thes. 4:1; Heb. 11:6; Eph. 5:8-10)

TAKE HOME:

- Where is my _____ set most of the week—on the things of the flesh or the things of the Spirit?
- Am I fighting against God’s authority or _____ in it?
- Do I live to please myself or to _____ the Lord?

Application Questions

James 1:22 says, “*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*” These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message in your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a Small Group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please call the church office at (661) 259-2913.

1. Where is my mind most often set—on the things of the flesh or the things of the Spirit? (Rom 8:5)
2. Am I experiencing life and peace, or frustration and emptiness? (Rom 8:6)
3. Do I find myself resisting God’s authority, or delighting in His commands? (Rom 8:7; Ps 119:97)
4. Is my life marked by a desire to please God above all else? (2 Cor 5:9)
5. When I sin, do I feel conviction and a longing to repent, or indifference? (Gal 5:24; 1 Jn 3:14)
6. Do I love the things of God and His Word, or do I find them boring or irrelevant? (1 Cor 2:14; Ps 119:97)
7. Is there evidence of the Spirit’s transforming power in my attitudes and actions? (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 5:22-23)
8. Am I trusting in my own efforts, or relying on the Spirit’s power to live the Christian life? (Phil 2:13; Rom 8:9)
9. Read the take home questions which one encourages me or challenges me the most? Why? How can I live differently this week based on what I have learned from this passage?

“There is nothing an unsaved person can do to please God—not good works, no religious observances, no sacrificial services, absolutely nothing. First, he must take the guilty sinners place and receive Christ by a definite act of faith. Only then can he win God’s smile of approval.”

- William McDonald, *Believer’s Bible Commentary*