



No Longer in Debt to the Flesh

Romans 8:12-13

I. The Flesh is a Liar—And You Don't Owe It Anything!

- A. The flesh demands _____, but it has no legitimate claim on you! (Rom. 6:14; Gal. 5:1; Col. 1:13)
- B. The flesh has never given you _____ worth owing! (Rom. 6:20-21; 7:18; Jms. 1:12; Gal. 6:8)
- C. The flesh wants _____, but the Spirit owns your future! (Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 1:6; Rom. 8:2, 11; Gal. 5:25)

II. The Flesh Wants to Kill You—So You Must Kill It (v. 13a)

- A. The flesh leads in only one direction—toward _____ (Jms. 1:15; Rom. 6:21; Prov. 14:12)
- B. The flesh doesn't _____—it assassinates (Matt. 18:8-9; 1 Pet. 2:11; Gen. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8)
- C. In this passage your main enemy is the flesh, not the _____ (1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 6:11; Rom. 16:19-20)

III. Killing Sin is a Daily Fight — But It's a Spirit-Powered Fight (v. 13b)

- A. The fight is yours, but the _____ is God's (Gal. 5:16; Phil. 2:13; Zech. 4:6)

Lie #1 — “Holiness will just happen _____”

Lie #2 — “Holiness is all up to _____”

A truth — You fight, but the Spirit supplies the _____

- B. The Spirit's _____ does the killing, not your willpower (Eph. 6:17; Psa. 119:11; Jn. 17:17; Matt. 4)
- C. The Spirit's power flows through _____, not fleshly effort (Gal. 3:5; Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6; Jn. 6:63; Psa. 16:11; Psa. 84:11; 1 Cor. 10:13)

TAKE HOME:

- Where am I still acting like a _____ to the flesh?
- What sin do I need to _____ — not manage, not tame, not excuse — but kill?
- Which specific _____ of God do I need to believe in my moment of temptation?

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 in your life are you still acting like you owe the flesh, and what would it look like to live as someone set free?
(Rom. 8:12; Gal. 5:1)
2. What specific sinful habit or thought pattern do you need to stop managing and start putting to death by the Spirit?
(Rom. 8:13; Col. 3:5)
3. How can you rely more on the Holy Spirit's power rather than your own willpower in your daily fight against sin?
(Gal. 5:16; Zech. 4:6)
4. When temptation comes, do you have a Scripture ready to answer it, and what verse could you memorize this week?
(Eph. 6:17; Psa. 119:11)
5. Are you believing any lies from the flesh about pleasure, freedom, or control, and how does the gospel expose those lies?
(Rom. 6:20-21; Jms. 1:15)
6. In what areas are you trying to tame or negotiate with the flesh instead of ruthlessly putting it to death?
(Matt. 18:8-9; 1 Pet. 2:11)
7. How does your understanding of being "Spirit-owned" rather than "flesh-owned" affect your daily choices and priorities?
(Rom. 8:2; Gal. 5:25)
8. What promise of God do you need to cling to in your moment of temptation, and how can faith fuel your victory?
(Rom. 10:17; Ps. 84:11)

"...the apostle often includes words of warning and self-examination in his letters, realizing that in every congregation there may be some people who have never been genuinely born again."

- William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary*