

Week of July 12, 2020

Romans 8:1-11 (NRSV)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

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 set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

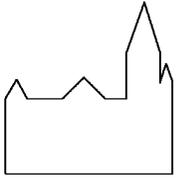
⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot,

⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

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

¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.



Group Leader

Remember: you don't need to use all of the questions. Go with what works. Give people a chance to think before answering, but if a question falls flat, move on. Let the discussion go where it needs to go, as long as it remains centered around the lesson. Give the participants page 1. Use this page for yourself.

Gathering questions:

- A. Name something that is a pet peeve of yours if it isn't "right". Why do you think it bothers you?
- B. Discuss a time when you gave up on something only to realize that you may have given up too soon?

Bible Study Questions:

1. When Paul uses the word "law" repeatedly, what kind of "law" is he referring to?
2. What are the "things of the flesh" that Paul is speaking of? What things motivate you that are actually "things of the flesh"?
3. What are the "things of the Spirit"? How much time do you typically spend thinking of "things of the Spirit"? When do you do it?
4. Paul wrote in verse 7 that "the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God." When are you guilty of doing this? In what ways are things you do "hostile to God"?
5. Where have you seen society make the most progress in your lifetime? Which surprised you the most?
6. What are things that you think God wants for our world, but you believe will never be achieved? How does believing they will never be achieved affect your behavior? How might you act differently if you believed it was possible?
7. Where do you expect too little of yourself when it comes to doing God's will?

Closing prayer: particularly invite prayers about working toward God's ideal vision for our lives and for our world