




GOOD NEWS FOR THE HOPELESS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ROMANS 8:5-13


- 1 **In Romans 8:5-13, Paul expounds on the truth he shared in verse 2.** *“The law (power) of the Spirit of life has set you free from the law (power) of sin and death.”* The Christian can have victory over sin! We can change.

 *What have you done to try to change in the past?*


 *What has worked? What hasn't worked?*

 *Are there ways that you have tried to change that you need to repent of?*


- 2 **In Romans 8:5-8, Paul uses a contrasting list of qualities to make the case that there are only two types of people in the world.**


 *Read Romans 8:4-8. What are those two types of people? Those who are Those who are*


 *Many try to superficially categorize people into many different groups. What are some of those groups?*

 *How does the idea of only two people types change the way you view the world? How does it change your view of your own spiritual condition?*

- 3 **Paul says those who are in the Spirit have a radically different mind-set than those who are in the flesh.** (Rom. 8:5) Think through your own mind-set about victory and change in your Christian life.

 *In Romans 8:1-4, 8-9, Paul says that because our flesh cannot please God, being in Christ and therefore in the Spirit is primarily a gift from above. How does that reality affect the way you feel about victory?*

 *Do you wonder if you have reached a plateau in your Christian life, as if your Christian growth has leveled off? Why do you think this is?*

 *What sins have you struggled with for many years that make it difficult to believe that you can have victory over?*

4 **Miraculously, where we were once under the power of sin and death, Christ has made us His own.** We belong to Him. (Romans 8:9) What does it mean to belong to Christ?²

 Read 1 Cor. 3:21–23. _____ are ours in Christ.

 Read 1 Cor. 6:19–20. We can make God look _____.

 Read 1 Cor. 7:22–23. We are not _____ of anyone or anything.

 Read 1 Cor. 15:22–23. We will be raised from the dead with a _____ body.


 Read Gal. 5:24. We are _____ to ruling and damning passions.


5 **In light of the miraculous gift of God's Spirit in us, Paul says we are in debt to something, but it isn't the flesh.** (Rom. 8:12) Have you ever felt that your flesh was making demands? What did that look like your life?

6 **We are not debtors to the flesh, but to the Spirit.** What in particular makes you grateful for the Spirit's work in your life?

7 **We fulfill our debt to the Spirit by treasuring and enjoying the infinite worth of God (setting our minds on the things of the Spirit) and rooting out anything that keeps us from that.** Read Romans 8:13. Paul calls this process putting sin to _____. The only alternative to gratifying the flesh is to do battle by the Spirit on our sin.

PRAYER REQUESTS

 Putting sin to death is relentless, by the Spirit, aimed at life and courageous.³
How do each of those categories help you in your battle against sin?

 What sins are you "playing games with" or "weaning yourself off" or "trying to manage" instead of seeking to put to death?

 How does setting our minds on the things of the Spirit correspond to putting sin to death?

Food for Thought: Think about how setting our minds on the things of the Spirit and putting sin to death is the path to "life and peace." Read Romans 8:1–13 then read the following quote. "Only the message that another true and obedient human being has come on our behalf, has lived for us the kind of life we should live but can't, has paid fully the penalty we deserve for the life we do live but shouldn't, only this message can give assurance that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." - Graeme Goldsworthy - *Preaching the Whole Bible as Christian Scripture*.

2. John Piper, <http://www.desiringgod.org/labs/you-are-not-your-own>

3. Raymond Ortlund, *Supernatural Living for Natural People*.