**Romans Series May 28, 2023**

**Living by the Holy Spirit - Romans 8:12-17**

1. Christians Eliminate Sinful Deeds
**By the Enablement of the Holy Spirit** Romans 8:12-13

* “Brethren” – fellow believers & Christ followers
* We choose to deny the fleshly / sinful desires of selfish wants
	+ This is not earning salvation, but instead is evidence that a person has truly been born again and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:5, 9)
* When the flesh is in control of a person, the Holy Spirit is not
	+ This does not mean that Christians will not sin at times (see Romans 7:14-25)
		- Sometimes a Christian gives in to the fleshly desires and sins, but that does not negate the sacrifice of Christ on behalf of a true Christian
* If a person’s goals are all self-satisfying, that person is demonstrating that the Holy Spirit is not in him or her (verse 13)
	+ The result is the second death, if the person does not repent and turn to Jesus by grace in faith
* When a person denies the flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit, it shows the person is truly a saved Christian
	+ This results in eternal life
	+ This is the demonstration of authentic Christianity

2. Christians Who are Led by the Spirit
**Demonstrate they are True Children of God** Romans 8:14-15

* It is a passive action taken by a choice to allow the Holy Spirit to lead, not the flesh
	+ This authenticates that a person is a true child of God
* We do not live in fear (Romans 8:1), but live as children of God
	+ We call to the Lord as our Father because we are adopted into His family (Galatians 3:26)

3. As Children of God, Christians Have **an Eternal Inheritance**
Romans 8:16-17

* The Holy Spirit, speaking through believers, shows that we are truly God’s children
	+ The evidence of the Spirit “testifies” that the person belongs to God!
* This shows that the Christian is an “heir” which means the recipient of a future inheritance
	+ “Heirs of God”
	+ “Fellow heirs with Christ”
* Just as Christ suffered, so too we Christians at times do suffer
	+ We cannot expect anything less than what Jesus experienced
	+ Instead, we are promised it won’t last and will result in our future glory with Him

**What does this mean for me?**

* Daily yield yourself to be led by the Spirit
	+ It is an on-going and persistent prayer and release to allow the Holy Spirit to lead our thoughts, words, and actions, all day long
* Continue to deny the fleshly desires that want to lead us to sin
	+ When the flesh gains control, quickly turn back to God and yield control again to the Holy Spirit
* You are a son or daughter of the heavenly Father, if the Holy Spirit lives in you
	+ Regardless of your family background or social status, you are an eternal heir of God’s kingdom with Jesus!
	+ This is a huge promise to claim, know, and be thankful to God for

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