

- I. Introduction (1:1-17)
- II. Credenda: “The Righteous by Faith” Shall Live (1:18-11:36)
  - A. No justification by our own righteousness (1:18-3:20)
  - B. Justification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone (3:21-4:25)
  - C. All those that God justifies, He shall also glorify (5-8)
    - 5:1-11 Having been *justified*, we rejoice in hope of *God’s glory*
    - 5:12-19 Adam failed to lead to glory; Christ shall succeed
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    - 6:1-7:25 Answering questions. *Since the law cannot justify...*
      - 6:1-14 *Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?*
      - 6:15-7:6 *Shall we sin because not under law but grace?*
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## A Sermon on Fleshly Mindedness

Romans, Part XXXVII

Romans 8:12-13

Stuart W. Bryan

### I. Imitating Amelia Bedelia

Romans 8:12–13

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

### II. We are debtors – not to the flesh

A. Therefore, we are debtors (12)

B. Not to the flesh but to the Spirit (13 cf. 6:15-16)

If we live according to the flesh, we will die. Douglas Moo writes:

*What is meant is death in its fullest theological sense: eternal separation from God as the penalty for sin. We must not eviscerate this warning; Paul clearly affirms that his readers will be damned if they continue to follow the dictates of the flesh. As Murray puts it, ‘The believer’s once-for-all death to the law of sin does not free him from the necessity of mortifying sin in his members; it makes it necessary and possible for him to do so.’ (494)*

Having been set from our slavery to sin and made slaves of righteousness, we are to live as such (cf. 6:15-16). We are, *by the Spirit, to put to death the deeds of the body.*

### III. The “Flesh” in Romans

Paul commands later in Romans, “*But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts*” (13:4). While Paul occasionally uses the term “*flesh*” to refer to our physical bodies, more typically he uses it to refer to our \_\_\_\_\_ nature (cf. Gal 5:16).

Meaning of “Flesh”	References in Romans
Physical Bodies	1:3; 2:28; 8:3; 9:3,5,8; 11:14 cp. 1:24; 4:19; 7:4; 8:23; 12:1
Sinful Corruption	6:19; 7:5, 18, 25; 8:1,3,4,6,7,8,9,12,13; 13:14 cp. 6:6; 7:24; 8:10,13,23

“*To live according to the flesh*” is not to live in our \_\_\_\_\_ but in accordance with our sinful corruption. So Paul wrote earlier, that “*when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death*” (7:5). In Christ we have been set free from our bondage to our sinful nature by the Spirit. By His death, Christ has delivered us from the *penalty* of sin; and, by His resurrection through the Spirit, He has freed us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. However, so long as we dwell in this life, “*the body is dead because of sin*” (8:10); we continue to struggle with our remaining sinfulness. But one day Christ shall free us from the *presence* of sin. Christ was crucified on our behalf “*that the body of sin might be done away with that we should no longer be slaves of sin*” (6:6). He shall raise our “*mortal bodies*” from the dead (8:11). The Christian hope, therefore, is “*the redemption of our body*” (8:23). And so, even now, “*by the Spirit*”, we are to “*put to death the deeds of the body*” (8:13), to kill our sinful desires and actions.

## IV. Fleshly Mindedness

Colossians 3:1-8

<sup>1</sup>If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. <sup>5</sup>Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup>in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. <sup>8</sup>But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.

### A. Earthly-Mindedness – Walking According to the Flesh

Unfortunately, many think that to be *heavenly-minded* is to avoid thinking about this earthly life. The *New English Bible*, for instance, "let your thoughts dwell on that higher realm, not on this earthly life." But that is not Paul's point at all! Thinking about *this earthly life* is our responsibility. So what does it mean to be *heavenly-minded*? Well note what Paul writes: we are "to seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God." To be *heavenly-minded* is to remember that Jesus Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ and to live in harmony with His rule. To be *earthly-minded* is to live as though Jesus has neither died nor risen again; it is to pretend that oneself or some other idol is lord.

### B. Sexual Sins (5)

Paul writes that "those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh" (8:3). To be *earthly-minded* is to live a life of sin and rebellion. The mentality that says, "I am a law unto myself, I get to run my life," is the defining characteristic of \_\_\_\_\_-mindedness.

In describing the practical ways in which this *earthly-mindedness* manifests itself, Paul begins with sexual sins (5). We are to kill sexual sin root and branch – to kill the visible manifestations of sexual sin and the heart motives that give rise to such actions.

### C. Interpersonal Sins (8)

When we do not trust God to protect us, do not trust God to advocate for us, then we use various other tools to try and control others or to protect ourselves. So Paul goes on to list some of these interpersonal sins. As the new humanity modeled after the Second Adam Jesus, the Church is to be a picture of what life was to be prior to the Fall – a life of joy, satisfaction, mutual respect, kindness. In short, a life of love. To walk *according to the Spirit* is to love one another: "But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection" (3:14).

- *Anger* –
- *Wrath* –
- *Malice* –
- *Blasphemy* –
- *Filthy Language Out of Your Mouth* –

## V. Conclusion