

Romans 8:5–8

Which of the Two Types of People Are You?

Monday, July 10, 2023 Read Romans 8:5–8

Questions from the Scripture text: What sort of person does the apostle mean by “those who live according to the flesh”—what is their mindset (v5a)? What sort of person does the apostle mean by “those who live according to the Spirit—what is their mindset (v5b)? What does fleshly-mindedness show (v6)? What does Spiritual-mindedness show? How does the fleshly mind relate to God (v7)? What isn't it subject to? Why not? What aren't they able to do (v8)?

What can you tell about a person by the way that they are? Romans 8:5–8 looks forward to the sermon in the upcoming midweek meeting. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the way that we are, the mindset that we have, shows whether we are at peace with God or enmity against Him.**

Two possible mindsets. The word translated “live” in v5 is actually just the “to be” verb. It refers not just to behavior but to being. There are only two states of existence possible in this life: being in the flesh and being in the Spirit. And the condition of the soul is expressed in the intent of their thoughts, their mindset. Literally, it is what they set their minds upon. I wonder, dear reader, what you are aiming your existence at? What you set your mind upon?

Diagnosing the condition of your soul. One great problem with continuing to be fleshly-minded is that it shows that you are still dead. Maybe you “made a decision” or had a spiritually or emotionally intense experience once, and you have been clinging to that for your eternal safety. But if you are still fleshly minded, you have been misdiagnosed, for you are dead. But if your heart and mind want what the Spirit wants, this is a symptom of being alive; this is an indicator of being at peace with God.

Determining the state of things between you and God. The fleshly mind is hatred toward God, enmity toward Him. It is not merely brokenness or inability. It is hostility. If we treat God as anything less than God, then we are suppressing the truth in unrighteousness. If God is God, then we must obey His law. But how can someone be obeying God's law if they have their mind set upon the flesh? This is to violate the first and greatest commandment.

So, either we have peace with God, as indicated by having our mind set upon the things of the Spirit, or else we are His enemies who cannot even begin to obey His law truly. What can such a man do? Nothing good. He is completely powerless to please God. His only hope is the God who reconciled enemies through the death of His Son (cf. 5:10). This is the way to have peace and life and to begin living with mind that is set upon the things of the Spirit.

What is your mind set upon? What are you aiming at in life? What does this say about the condition of your soul? What does it say about the state of things between you and God? What is your hope?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You that while we were enemies, You reconciled us to Yourself by the death of Your Son. And we thank You that Your Spirit has given us not only life and peace with You, but also that living to please You and obey You which shows that we have life and peace. Keep cleansing us from all unrighteousness, by Your Spirit, we ask through Jesus Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB “What Blessedness” or TPH335 “Praise the Savior Now and Ever”

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans eight versus five through eight. These are God's words. 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. The things of the spirit. To be carnally, minded is death. But to be spiritually, minded is life.

And peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against god. For it is not subject to the law of god, nor indeed can be So then those who are in the flesh, Cannot please. So, for the reading of gods inspired and inherentworth. And which These four verses, the Lord teaches us that there are really only two ways to live.

There is. The way of living that has the mindset on things of the flesh, and there's the way Uh, of living that has the mindset on the things of the spirit. Or to put it that one another way. Um, the flesh determines your mindset versus the spirit determining. Your mindset.

And in the second place. There is the way to live that shows. That you are dead and that you are going to die. And, The opposite of that, as a way of living that shows that you are alive. And that you are becoming more alive that you will live forever.

So there's the two mindsets and Um, the two conditions. Uh, Of our soul. And then, There are the two standings before god. The one being an enemy of god. And the other. Being one who is god's friend? God pleasing god. Not being an enemy. But a subject? And so those are the two standings.

So the first the two mindsets verse 5 for those who live. According to the flash, those whose being is. The word live here is really the to to be verb. Um, And either. Uh, your being is. According to the flesh or according to the spirit. Either you continue in the stage in which you came into this world.

And so your existence, your identity. Your being. Is in yourself. And if it's in yourself, then it's in your sin. And that's what he's saying in your flash and you could tell by the mindset For those. Who's being is according to the flesh. Set their minds on the things of the flesh.

And it takes the word for mind. And it basically, Attaches a preposition to it and turns it into a verb. Literally to set the mind upon. And i'm not sure, historically, if that's where exactly, we got the word mindset. But probably linguistically. It does come from this verb. Or at least from a quite literal translation of this verb.

What is your mindset? It doesn't mean you're always successful. Indeed, great. Frustration can come from. Uh, Having one. Having a particular desire and constantly. Um, failing to do it. And we've seen some of that frustration already in the last half. Of chapter 7. Uh, but it does mean What is fundamentally determining what you are aiming at with your life?

What is your mindset and even when your attitude or your focus, or your intention, or your follow through are drifting, Uh, you You still, when you realize that that is what has happened, you come back and reorient and refocus. And so, what is? What is the focus? What is the mindset?

What is the attitude? What are you aiming at, with your being? And therefore with your mind and this, of course goes along with what he has been calling in the second half. Of chapters having the law of his mind. That he now has the slug for god and this love for god's law and this desire to do righteousness.

Uh, this desire. Uh, to be pleasing to god. Because, His mind is set upon things of the spirit or rather, the spirit is, determining, whatever he sets his mind upon. And

so, those are the two ways to live, and you can ask yourself Uh, am i someone? Whose mind is set upon things.

That the holy spirit is teaching me to set my mind upon. Or. Is my mind set upon things that just my flesh. Wants to set my mind upon. And that can be any number of things. It can be just mere survival. Well, you do a lot of the things that you're supposed to do, but you're just doing them because Um, the world is going to come unraveled, if you don't or And that's you know, if you have more responsibility, if you have less responsibility, you know you may Receive.

You know, the warming of your bottom or The denying of Uh, privileges and desires or whatever it is. Um, but you can have a you can do a lot of right things even from a fleshly mindset. Uh, or are you trying to be pleased with yourself or have others pleased with you?

That's also a fleshly mindset. Or are you trying to be impressive? That can also be an a fleshly mindset. Um, So, What we're talking about is, And discovering if at bottom, Uh coming before god asking him to help, you know yourself, evaluating what you think about what you're aiming at with your life.

Um, Am i aiming at? The honoring and enjoying of the one who has redeemed, me. To give glory to god. And enjoy. God himself as my priceless treasure and the lord jesus to enjoy jesus himself. As my priceless treasure. Is, is this? My mindset and as that determining them, The things that i do.

Now, there are some things that the mindset of the spirit refuses to do that. The flesh is happy to do. So it's certainly, there are some actions That help you distinguish between the two. But a lot of this is motivation. A lot of this is desire. A lot of this is pleasure.

A lot of this is hope. Um, And so, it's It's good. They So wonderful. Um, book by john owen. Um, The Puritan paperback series. That has kind of simple simplification of it called spiritual-mindedness. And it is an examination of Is my mind set upon the things of the spirit.

Or is my mindset. All the things of the flesh? Because i want to know. Which one of these two in these three kind of Comparisons of these mutually exclusive classifications of all of humanity, which one of these do i fall into Which one do you fall into? And if you Are worried that you fall into the wrong one.

Uh, there's hope. You know what it is but we'll get to it especially The third point. So the the second

Classifying of all of humanity into two groups comes, not now in mindset, but with the condition of your soul, is it dead? Or is it alive? For to be carnally-minded or fleshly minded is death. If my mind is set on the things of the flesh, If it's not the holy spirit, His determining.

What i'm aiming at? What? I desire? Uh, what my when i Even if i do, go off the rails, what i reorient myself to If i'm fleshly minded rather than Um, spiritually-minded, then that indicates that i'm still dead. That i haven't been resurrected in my heart. I haven't been given the eyes of faith.

To see the glory of jesus and here. The lord jesus, the way we were hearing about in. Paul's experience of christ in acts 22 yesterday. Or to see. Jesus, as that, glorious one who sits upon the throne and who from his throne atoned for me. Um, like he did for Isaiah.

In the vision and Isaiah 6 yesterday. Um, The spirit. Uh, If the spirit hasn't given you to see those things about christ, and if the spirit now isn't ruling and over ruling, all of your desires and intentions. Determining. That your primary orientation of life. Your spiritual orientation is upon the things of the spirit.

The, if that's not the case for you, you're dead. But i fat is the case for you. Not only are you alive. But the fact that you're alive shows, What? We had from verse 1, that there is no condemnation against you. That god's wrath is not against you. In fact, god's devotion to his glory, his own glory, instead of being set against you, in wrath is set for you in peace.

That's what it means to have peace with god. It's not just the Uh, the elimination of his hostility. Because god has never neutral about everything. He's always infinitely, intensely for himself and his glory because he is infinitely glorious, and he would be unrighteous if he wasn't infinitely for himself and for his glory.

But what he's done in the gospel, what he's done by jesus christ. What he's done by his spirit, making us alive, and joining us to jesus by faith and giving us peace with himself. Is he takes all of his commitment to himself and his glory. And makes it work for us.

We are in an alliance with god. Right now, there's a War going on. Um, Yeah. Two thirds of the way. Across the world. Or so. And one of the main reasons for that war is there's a country that is alarmed at the alliance into which it's near neighbor that they used to think of as their own country.

Um, They first, they lost that portion of what they thought was their country and now this new country. Is. Has is coming into or has come into depending upon, i mean, that's disputed. This new alliance. And, It's such a. A strong alliance maybe just on paper. Uh but it's such a strong alliance that the original country is alarmed about it and they're having a big war of it.

Well. I'm not super impressed with. The european and north american nations. Uh, that are Uh, in this alliance that is supposedly so strong. Uh, especially not my comparison to what it is to have god. In alliance with you. To have him actively ruling and over ruling. All things for your good and not just for your good the way we think about good.

Like that, you know, i would Uh, not get cancer injured for a few decades. Uh, so that I die peacefully of old age. And, But for the good of having him as our inheritance for the good of being conformed, to the image of the lord jesus, for the good of coming into the full enjoyment.

Of god as those who are perfectly holy and desire him, like we should and he gives himself to us fully. That's what he's aiming that for us. So if you have life, you don't just have life. You have. Peace with god. And so that's the that's the third thing.

Are you? You have the mindset of the flesh, the mindset of the spirit. That's the first. That's the first. Diagnostic question to figure out which of the two groups are, you're in? Second diagnostic question on my alive or am i dead? And those answered by the first one, but what the first one tells you is, if you're dead, or, if you're alive, and if you're dead, Uh, or alive that tells you well, am i god's enemy?

Or am i gods? Uh, subject. And is he my ally have i made an enemy enemy of god or have i made an ally of god? Um, The fleshly mind is an enmity against god for it is not subject to the law of god nor indeed can it be And as we saw in chapter 1, The mind of the flesh.

What it does, is it? Presses down on the knowledge of the glory of god. It refuses. To accept his glory. It refuses to accept his goodness. Right. So the Although they knew god, they neither glorified god, nor worth thankful. So, neither glorified god, says that they refuse to accept his glory.

Nor were thankful is refusing to accept his goodness. And that's a big part, you know, some of you are are listening to the Dramatized radio stuff about evolution. That's one of the that's one of the big consequences of evolution. If you don't see it as Uh, if you don't see creation as the merciful generous wise, good work of god.

You fail, not only to give him glorious the one who has done it, but you don't feel the thankfulness Of the one who has benefited from. All of this good that god has done. But not only then does the fleshly mind? Refuse to honor him glorify him. Not only does the fleshly mind refuse to be thankful, but it refuses also to obey his law.

And he righteously gives those who don't want him. Lord who are pushing down on the knowledge of him. He gives them over to live, according to their own twisted, corrupt, depraved minds. And that's what you get in the rest of Romans chapter 1, including that big long list. At the very end of chapter one and they know that the law of god, forbids those things but they not only do them but approve of those who do so here, he says the carnal.

Mind the fleshly mind is in opposition against god, four. It is not subject to the law of god. And if you don't obey God's law, if you don't recognize it as law as righteous and holy and good, then you're rejecting him as god aren't you? You can't say, I accept you as god, but I reject your law.

Now you there's you there's not like this, a la carte approach that you could take to god. It is not subject to the law of god nor indeed can it be. So then those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Supposing, they realized. What danger they were in as enemies.

And thought there that they could maybe. Um, appease god, a little bit to make it up to him a little bit. So his wrath isn't quite so much against them. But everything they do is out of desire for self. I don't love myself. Even. Even the desire. Uh, not to be in so much trouble.

There's just a desire for self. Um, it's failing to obey love the lord, your god, with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. It doesn't have the life from the spirit that produces the mindset that is according to the spirit. And there's nothing that the unregenerate dead unbeliever can do.

In order to, please god. Because his very mindset is set against god. And so those are, those are the two groups, the group. Uh, on the one hand that walks according to the flesh. And is dead. And is god's enemy. Has made an enemy of god. And then on the other hand, the group that walk supporting the spirit.

And is alive. And has peace with god. And which one are you in?

The good news is that, if you conclude based on that description and that analysis. That you continue to make an enemy of god. God showed his love for this for us while we were still enemies. Christ died for us. And so those who are enemies, have hope, but they have hope.

Our only by Christ only by the grace of god. If you find even as a member of the church, even as a member of this household, that you have been an enemy of god, and you're worried about that. Then your hope is not that you can get a little bit better.

A little bit better. A little bit better. Change this here changes there. Your hope. Is that god? Will make you alive or resurrect you Give you faith in Jesus. Who died for enemies? To bring us. Into. Walking, according to the spirit. As those who are alive. And to have peace with god through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen, let's pray.

Father, we thank you for giving us a passage. That helps us make these important spiritual distinctions. We pray that you would, Forgive us, our sins. And give us life. Make us to know our peace with you. Give us a mind that is set upon the things of the spirit.

You pray. Lord that

If any of us are still dead. That you'd give us to know it and that you would give us the hope in you.

To believe in Christ, and cling to him. Know that. This is the way by which you take someone from being your enemy. To having you as an ally. We ask it in Jesus name, amen.