

Romans 8:9–11

How Union with Christ Gives Us a Triune Ally in the Fight Against the Flesh

Monday, July 17, 2023 ◻ Read Romans 8:9–11

Questions from the Scripture text: To whom is the apostle speaking in v9? What does he say they are not in? What are they in instead? Whose Spirit is He? But Whose Spirit is He in the second half of the verse? What is the reality about someone who does not have the Spirit of Christ? Who is in you if the Spirit of Christ is in you (v10, cf. Col 1:27)? What is the condition of our body? Why? Whom do you know is in you, producing what? Why is He sure to be life in you? Now what is the Spirit called in v11? How great, then, is the life that is in you? What did the triune God do with Christ? What will He do with our bodies even now? Through Whom?

Where can a Christian get confidence for the battle that rages in his life? Romans 8:9–11 looks forward to the sermon in the upcoming midweek meeting. In these three verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Triune God has brought Christians out of themselves, and into union with Himself in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Since those who are in the flesh cannot please God (v8) how can a Christian, who has so much flesh remaining in him, hope to live in a way that pleases God? The answer is that if we belong to Christ, we are united to the second person of the Godhead, and indwelt by the third person of the Godhead, making us the object of God's life-giving purposes and actions in this world.

The Spirit of God dwells in Christians, v9. "If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." The contrapositive of this (which is necessarily, logically true) is that "If anyone is in Christ, he has the Spirit of Christ." Praise God! We know that sin still dwells in us (7:17, 20). Does sin still dwell in me? The Spirit of God does too! Notice the two titles in v9: "Spirit of God" and "Spirit of Christ." There are three great encouragements here. First, the Spirit Who dwells in us is God Himself; so who will win a battle between Him and our remaining flesh? Second, Christ is God. When the Spirit dwells in His humanity, He is the Spirit of Christ, because Christ is a divine Person (when He indwells a Christian girl named Suzy, He does not become "the Spirit of Suzy"). Third, Christ has given us to have the same Spirit in us that is in Him.

The Spirit of God is a Spirit of life in Christians, v10. We know why our bodies are dead, why there is death in them, why there is sin in us as long as we are in these bodies, and why these bodies themselves are going to die. This is all the necessary consequence of our sin. But what is the necessary consequence of our standing of righteousness in Christ? That we are spiritually alive. But not just that we ourselves are spiritually alive, that the Spirit Himself is the continual, inexhaustible, indefatigable source of life in us!

The Spirit of God gives Christians resurrection life already, in bodies that haven't died yet, v11. The Spirit is the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead. This does not mean just the Spirit of the Father or the Spirit of the Son, for all three Persons of the Godhead actively raised Christ from the dead (cf. 1:1, 6:4; Jn 10:17–18; Gal 1:1). But this is the powerful point of v11: the life and power of the Triune God that was exerted in Christ's resurrection is what is being exerted, even while we are still in our death-bodies, in which the resurrection-life-Spirit has come to dwell. Dear Christian, this is how we are able to live unto God (cf. 6:4, 9–11)! Dear Christian, this is how you can walk according to the righteous requirements of the law. You have an almighty Ally dwelling within you, and He is determined to produce the resurrection life of Christ even within your death-body.

What sins are you battling in your life? Where is the life to do so coming from? How do you know this?

Sample prayer: Lord, we thank You for attesting to Your life-giving power by Christ's resurrection. Grant that by Your Spirit, we would live unto You for the rest of our earthly life, we ask in Jesus's Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP24 "The Earth and the Riches" or TPH448 "Union With Thee"

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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)

Roman chapter 8 verses 9 through 11. These are God's words. But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, If indeed the spirit of god dwells in you, Now, if anyone does not have the spirit of christ, He is not his. But if christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin.

But the spirit is life. Because of righteousness. But if the spirit of him who raised jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised christ from the dead. Will also give life to your mortal bodies. Through his spirit. Who dwells? In. So far the reading of god's inspired and inherent word.

In which we learn. Some of the benefits that we have. From belonging to the lord jesus christ by faith. We've been hearing about this. And we're expecting to ultimately hear. About our being delivered from the body of this death. Remember back in chapter 7 and verse 24. Which is what has provoked us to think especially about being united to christ.

When he asked the question, who shall deliver me from the body of this death, his answer was thanks be to god through jesus christ. Our lord And that. Reality of being united, to the lord jesus christ and our future, deliverance from the body of this death. Coming through union with our lord.

Jesus christ it provoked, your member The memory that we are not condemned any longer, we are justified. In christ jesus, which as Sophia is memorizing. This week means that we are forgiven by god and treated. As if we had never sinned. And so in union with christ, all of our condemnation has been taken away.

And in the union with christ. His spirit of life. Is what frees us from having to obey the law? Like someone who is dead. And so you remember that in? Those things from 7:25 and eight one and eight, two. And now we come to chapter 8, verses 9 through 11.

And he gives us three very specific benefits of union with Christ. Verse 9, if we're united to christ. Then we have his spirit. Verse 10. If we are united to christ, then we are alive. The primary principle. Of our inner man. As a principal of life, not death. And therefore if we are united to christ, we will be living, which is different than just the condition of being alive.

It is the conduct of walking according to life. And so verse 9, if we have christ, we have his spirit, but you are not in the flesh. But in the spirit, If indeed the spirit of god dwells in you, Well, in whom does the spirit of god dwell. And the answer is everyone.

Who belongs to the lord jesus christ? Now, if anyone does not have the spirit of christ, He is not. There are some branches of the church in which there is this idea. That. There are two stages or at least two stages of the christian life. And that one of the transitions in the christian life comes, when you quote unquote, get the spirit.

As if there's such a thing as christians, who do not have the spirit, But he says, If anyone does not have the spirit of christ, he is not his Everyone who has Christ has a spirit. If you trust in the Lord, jesus christ. If you have come to faith in him, if he has brought you to believe in it.

You have his holy spirit. And his holy spirit, then gives you two things. It gives you. A new identity. And he gives you a new indwelling. Your new identity. Comes by your new indwelling. So, if you belong to christ, you have to work backwards in the verse. If you belong to christ and you have the spirit of christ, if you have the spirit of christ, he dwells in you.

And this is very important because we've just heard in verse 17 and verse 20 of the previous chapter that we have a bad tenant. We have a bad renter. Uh, who dwells in our hearts sin, dwells in us. And so when christ gives us a spirit, his spirit doesn't just act externally.

Upon us. But he dwells internally. Within us. Now, who is going to win? Between the sin. That dwells with within us. And god, the holy spirit who dwells within us. Well, the good news is that the indwelling spirit is also the one who gives us our identity? He takes the center position.

Our sin may dwell in us but it is not at the core of who we are. We are not in the flesh. But in the spirit. So that's the first great blessing you have. In this passage, if you are united to christ, you have his spirit and his spirit, dwells in you and his spirit has taken over The flesh is still there.

The sin is still there but you're not in your flesh. You are in the spirit. And so this is great news, not only that if anyone is in cry there is now no condemnation for those who are in christ. But now there is no identification with our sin for those who are in Christ.

That there is now the indwelling of his spirit for those who are in christ because everyone who belongs to christ to whom Um, But he, he

Because christ gives his spirit. To everyone. Here belongs to him. Yes. Was asking me why you're saying flesh a lot? I don't think she understands the flesh spirit thing. Okay, we use the word flash, or at least paul is using the word flashing, so we're using the word flesh, like he does.

To talk about. Um, who we were? In the first item. Because we all come from the first atom, And, He sinned and we sinned in them. And so, when you come into this world, You are only who you were an adam. You are only in your flesh. This is why you need jesus.

So that you will not be in adam anymore, and you will not be in sofia anymore, but you will be in christ and you will be in your spirit. Now, your sinfulness stays in you, after you believe in jesus, and you have to fight against it. And your sinfulness.

Is what we are calling and what the apostle is calling your flesh. There's a good important question because some people just think it means being a human creature, like, actually having a physical body. But that's not what it means. It's talking about who we were in Adam. Versus who we were.

Who we are in christ. And our flesh that came from adam. Is. A reminder of and an indicator of, it shows us that we came from. Adam But the holy spirit. Who came from christ and dwells in us. Is our indicator. That we are not in adam anymore. But we are in christ.

And so when we are fighting against our sin, The. In christ. The part of us that belongs to christ which is the main part of us. That's our new identity. That's who we are. We're in christ now is fighting against what is left over. From what we were in Adam, and we've called that our flesh.

So, not talking like, Fighting against the collection of Organs and bones, and vessels, and nerves, and so forth. We're talking about fighting against who we were in, Adam. So, the first great thing that we we have, because we're in christ, as we have his spirit, The spirit dwelling in us.

And his spirit, then giving us communicating to us, continually our new identity. In the lord, jesus Christ. The second thing then. Um, is life. The spirit gives us life from christ. This is verse 10. And if christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin. But the spirit is life.

Because of righteousness and again. Um, He's talking, especially About that which remains from Adam and we can see him using the words flesh and body interchangeably in verse 13. For instance, if you skip down to next week's passage for if you live, according to the flesh, you will die.

But if by the spirit, you put to death, the needs of the body, you will live. Okay. So he's He is not saying just that you have a physically dead body. Or dying body. That's true. And, The fact that our bodies are, Breaking down and will die. Uh, does remind us Of a greater death, doesn't it?

That death, that was in us from adam. And so, we still have within our hearts within our souls. And that sinfulness that remains that fleshiness that remains. We have something that is dead and rotting, and stinking. Like, Uh, like lazarus's sister said about his body when jesus was saying, Remove.

The, the To open the tomb. For. For Lazarus to come out. Uh, but we do have that death, that remains that fleshiness that remains in us. But the spirit is the one who's also dwelling in us. And he is going to win. And what is he communicating to us?

But the spirit is life, Because of righteousness. So we had the sin of atom and our own sin. Which required that that we die and there's fleshiness that's left in us. From what we earned in adam and And what? What we have earned for ourselves. But the spirit who is in us is not giving us according to what madam earned He's not giving us according to what we earned.

He's giving us according to what the lord jesus earned. And so, because of the righteousness of jesus, And because the spirit now has come to us, not from adam. Not from our parents, not from ourselves. Whereas the spirit come from. The spirit has come from christ. And so what is the spirit working?

And according to, what does the spirit operate? He operates and works according to the righteousness of jesus. And so, We are receiving by the work of the spirit what jesus has earned on our On our behalf and what has he earned for us? To be alive, not to be dead.

Okay, so verse 9, if you have christ, you have the spirit Verse 10. If you have christ, You are alive. And then verse 11, This may sound pretty obvious. If you have christ, you live. And this is what a lot of people do, they live? But if the spirit of him who raised jesus from the dead, Dwells in you.

And here, we're reminded that. The spirit is the spirit of god. The spirit is the spirit of christ. You see both of those things in verse 9? And the spirit is himself, god and so you have the father, the son, and the holy spirit. The triune god. Exercised. Exerted.

His triune power and the raising of jesus christ from the dead. Different passages say. Jesus is raised from the dead by the glory. Of the father. Or jesus. Was declared. To be the son of god with power, according to the spirit, through the resurrection of the dead or jesus saying, no one takes my life from me, i have authority to lay it down and i have authority to take it up again.

You say who raised jesus? Was it the father that's, or the son of the spirit. And the answer is yes. That was all three. And so, when we say if the spirit of him who raised jesus from the dead, you say, well who is that? Well it's the father, the son, and the holy spirit.

We could paraphrase. Couldn't we verse 11? If the spirit of the triune god dwells in you, He who raised christ from the dead. The triune god. Will also give life. To your mortal bodies. Which means you don't have to wait. To get out of the dying body. And that is Your flesh and blood body here.

You don't have to wait to get out of your mortal body. To start living. His spirit who dwells in you. Enables you to use. The hands and the feet and the eyeballs. All of

these things. That will one day. Go into the ground and be eaten by worms. But now they are in the hands of the triune god dwelling in you by his spirit.

To use them for the glory of god. So that just as The death that christ died. He died to sin once for all but the life that he lives. He lives unto God, we too. We too, by christ's resurrection life. That is applied to us by the triune god.

May live unto God. Even in the use of our Hands and arms, and feet, and legs, and eyeballs, and mouths. And All of these, all of these things. So yes. We got these bodies from Adam just like we got our fleshly. That's from Adam. But these bodies now belong.

To the second atom, the last atom, the lord jesus christ. And we have the life. Life from the triune god. For the use of our mortal bodies. So we're not just alive. But we actually get to do living unto God. And these three things then come from Christ. To have a spirit.

To be alive. And to use, even our dead bodies. For real living. Praise God. Let's pray.

Father, for For us who are fighting against our sin and our often discouraged. We pray that your spirit, right? The truth is passage on our hearts, that we would remember. That we have. From christ, your spirit. And that we have from christ to be alive. And that we have from christ to do real living.

Even in the use of our mortal bodies. We do pray. Lord that for Any of my children who do not yet. Perceive the battle. That they would rest in the lord. Jesus christ, love him. And loving him and wanting to please you in. That they would hate their sin and that they would join.

The battle that they would go to war.

Thank you for your encouragement. That everything that we have and everything that we need is in christ. And then it is all being ministered to us by his spirit. Help us, then to Depend joyfully and confidently. And determinantly resolutely. Upon our lord jesus and upon your spirit, we dwells in us.

For we ask it in christ's name. Amen.