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Romans 8 verses 12 through 13. These are God's words. Therefore brethren, we are debtors. Not to the flesh to live, according to the flesh. 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.

So far the reading of gods inspired and The narrant word. It's been three weeks since we. Last heard preaching from romans which means it's been three weeks since we heard. Verse 11, 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 you?

And so we began to hear at that time. About having life in our mortal body. These bodies that we inherited from Adam. These bodies that are decaying and dying because of sin These bodies that must be sown into the ground. Still. To dust, they shall return. In order that they may be transformed gloriously in the last day.

At the resurrection and yet, even while we are in these bodies in this life Uh, In this world, the spirit gives life to these bodies. We can use these hands. That are going to go to the grave. Because of sin. We can use them as slaves for righteousness slaves, unto God for righteousness.

These feet that we have now, these mines. These lips. And so verses 12 through 13, continue. Helping us understand what it looks like to have life. In our mortal body. And what it looks like. So we see in our very short, text nine. Is it looks like killing the sin.

That had killed us. Specifically killing the sin by the spirit of christ. Christ is the one. Who made us righteous and holy? And gave us his spirit to apply him to us. So that we might not only be in a right standing with god, but might have a new nature.

That identifies jesus as our savior. And god is our father That loves his law. That the lights in his law and our inner being, that is very frustrated. Or a frustrated, his wrong word. Very grieved by the fact that sin continues to dwell in us. This new nature that we have And that goes back to verse 10.

If christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the spirit is life. Because of righteousness, both justification. Having a right standing with god and positional sanctification. Having been set apart by god as holy. And having been given a new and holy, Nature. And so having life or having the spirit give life to our mortal bodies looks like Killing the sin.

That had killed us. By the spirit of christ killing the sin. That had killed us. And so we see three things. That we have from the spirit or rather in the spirit, actually in the spirit to the spirit and by the spirit, First, we are brethren in the spirit.

Second, we are debtors to the spirit. And third. We are killers. By the spirit. First, then we are brethren in the spirit, it's encouraging. When he said, You are not in the flesh. If christ is in you,

But if the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead also, give life to your mortal bodies and so he's been speaking in the second person.

But suddenly, He speaks in the third as he speaks in the first person in verse 12. Therefore brethren, we And, We perc up at that, we see that the apostle is Saying that he and we are in the same condition in the same position. And not only is he, is he joining us in the verb?

We Our debtors, we'll get to In the second point. When he calls them. And indeed us. Brethren. Therefore brethren. We? You see if Christ is in you. And if the spirit is in you Then he who raised Christ through his spirit. We'll give life to your mortal bodies in Christ through his spirit.

That is to say. This is a brethren that belongs to the work and relation of the triune gods to us. Most obviously, we are brethren in Christ. We Have that language several times in the scripture, we use that language about one, another my brother in Christ, my sister. In Christ.

And so we are not. Uh, brethren in the flesh, you know, there's That. Old liberal song. Uh, that tries to talk about all the humanity With God as our father brethren. All are we that's actually not true. Now, what was true and thankfully, it's not true for us anymore.

What was true is with Adam as our father brethren, all are we and that isn't a good thing. And so, when he says brethren here in the context, Of having a new identity in Christ and you nature from Christ by his spirit. And you father no longer. Father Adam.

But our heavenly father as the Lord Jesus. After his resurrection says to the disciples that he goes to my father and your father Is our father in the Lord Jesus. Now, And so we are brethren in Christ. We're also brethren by the spirit. Originally, we were Brethren and Adam.

And so we had the same natures that we had received from Adam. And there's enough left over from that nature even that we don't have anymore. To grieve the Christian deeply. And give him. Much pain and conflict in the rest of his earthly life. But now we're not brethren with the same nature that we gotten, Adam were brethren in the same spirit that we got in Christ.

He pours out to spirit on each individual, one just like baptism. Is poured out the water applied to each individual one and yet we know that we have received the same baptism. There's one baptism, The same apostle says elsewhere one God one father. One. Lord, etc.

We have. Then not just the one, baptism the same baptism, but the same spirit. And so the spirit who dwelt in the apostle, Paul the spirit who carried Paul along as he wrote the the words that we are hearing preached. Is the same spirit. Who has come to dwell in you.

Believe in Jesus Christ. And, of course, we're children of the same father. And that is the most natural use of the word brethren, isn't it? Her brothers. Children in the same father, so we're not brethren in the flesh anymore. We're brethren via the triune God. It's a wonderful thing to call a Christian brother, not just because We may have this reconciled and affectionate and united relationship with one another But because of what it means, God has done not just to our relationship with one another but especially To our relationship with God.

And so, when he says brethren here, He's getting us ready. To understand what he means by the deeds of the body. We We talked about the word body. A little bit last time to correctly, understand from the previous verse give life to your mortal bodies. But now in verse 13 we're going to hear if by the spirit you put to death, the deeds of The body.

That is to say the deeds. That are from the nature that we inherited with our bodies. We're still in the bodies that we got from Adam. We're going to get a new body that is conformed to

christ's body at the resurrection. And so, when we say deeds of the body, we don't mean physical deeds.

We mean. Deeds that come from the nature that we had received with these self-same bodies. You don't have that nature anymore. If you're a Christian, You only have one nature at a time and so the apostle's very careful in how he talks about it here, New setting us up to groan with the creation for the redemption of our bodies.

And what will it be like then? When he who enabled us to love and serve and obey, God, even with our mortal bodies. When he has completed our adoption. And conformed us physically to his son. How much greater than? It will be. When the spirit gives life to our immortal, Bodies.

And so, that's the first thing we see here, brethren Brethren in the spirit. Now, if we're brothers in, in the spirit brothers in christ, brothers, as children of the same heavenly, father that means that we are under obligation to take up the family business. Now, we don't have That many family businesses anymore, may the lord restore that.

As he turns the hearts of fathers towards her children and children towards our fathers, Um, fair, not that. It's a sin not to be in a family business, but it's very healthy thing. But if we were A culture that still had family businesses, and Your dad was a carpenter and of course.

You are going to be a carpenter too. Why would you be anything else? And even more. So here since it's not just the The family trade. But it is. The family mission in the world. You see, jesus, our elder brother. The scripture says came into the world to destroy the works of the devil.

And each of us have particular. Sinful works to destroy. The ones that come from the remaining sin. That is in us. We join. Uh, we join our lord jesus. Indeed. We have been indwelt by the spirit and the spirit loves us. Didn't we just hear three chapters ago? That he is the one who pours out the love of god and our hearts using the language of a, of a of a drink offering.

In which you would just pour the whole thing all at once. Except for you never finished pouring. The whole thing, when it's the love of god and it's in exhaustible and that's what the spirit does to us. He pours out the love of god in it and he loves us.

When we hear the blessing, the try and blessing, we hear the the grace of the lord jesus christ, which is applied to us by the spirit and the love of god, which is applied to us by the spirit and the fellowship. Of the holy spirit be with you all.

Because he fellowship goes two ways. I'm afraid, there are too many in the churches who are accustomed to thinking of the the holy spirit as Some kind of power or force that that you tune in from god or perhaps. You know, the the great magician who enables all the parlor tricks.

But it's a person who loves us. And not only does he have fellowship with us but fellowship goes two ways. And so if you are indwelt by the spirit, you are a debtor to the spirit. In galatians 5, a parallel passage to this one. Verse 16. Really to the end.

Although, Verse. 26 is an added application. So, verse 16 to 25 in relations 5, was a unit. He tells us almost immediately and in verse 17, the the flesh losts against the spirit But he tells us the spirit lost against the flesh. In other words, There is. A mortal war between the holy spirit and the flesh.

And the holy spirit isn't like you. And i He doesn't take any time off. From hating, the flesh from working desiring against the flesh, always doing for us. And in us, and to us, that which would kill remaining sin. So, we are debtors. We are under obligation. Here we have the one who

loves us and who is with us, and who is always hating our sin, shouldn't we love him and have fellowship with him and always hate and fight against sin with him.

Oh, don't think of the spirit, merely as a power. There are some and I trust, there are not many among us. But perhaps it is you. But I've met some in the churches who think of Jesus, as the one who loves them. The Father is the one who's, who's You know, hand fist of wrath has been barely held back by the sun.

I'm going to dreadful blasphemous way to think. Of the Father who loved so much that he gave us the sun. And so, I trust dear question that in your walk with the Lord, your full of love to the Lord Jesus. And full of love to your heavenly Father, I urge you from this text to be full of love.

To guard the Holy Spirit. Five chapters or so. When speaking about the persons of men, I'm going to say, oh no one anything except to love. Well you oh God. The Father and God the Son and God the Spirit everything. And most of all love. And so you have to take a side.

You imagine? Your dear friend. Or your child. Or your spouse. In a battle. And you standing a loof. A few feet away. Declining to help. Declining to participate. Well, we must We must battle. We must take a side. Sin is never passive. Just as the Spirit lusts against the flesh, the flesh lusts against the Spirit.

And since our sin is never going to be passive, we must Neither be passive with it. The combat is always taking place. It takes place every day. Whether you're participating or not, if the Spirit is there and the flesh, is there there's combat. And so we may well ask ourselves every single day.

How was the battle against sin today? Indeed, at any moment. If it occurs to you, To remember the battle against sin. How can you think that that would be anything but the Holy Spirit and he won other than the Holy Spirit? Who is reminding you that there's a battle against sin?

I ask myself. How was my battle against sin today? Now if I hadn't thought about the battle at all, if I've been unaware that there has even been a battle Then isn't that because I have been lulled into defeat Either by my own ignorance. Or the, the subtlety, the trickiness.

The deceitfulness. Of my remaining sin. Which is deceitful above all things. Would be quite happy for me to think things are going so well today. I haven't had to battle against sin at all. Oh, really? That sin stopped dwelling in you. No. Did sin. Stop lusting against the Spirit.

No. Well then how is it that you did no battle today? Certainly, it was not because things were going so well. So we are brethren in the Spirit and we are debtors to the Spirit. But praise God. We are also Killers. By the Spirit. You know, pastors. And preachers sometimes.

Care too much for titles. I never titled sermons at all, until I came here and there was a spot in the bulletin. And so we started titling sermons. But, This one, Lord willing. Will be titled Spirit-born killers. Now. I know the phrase. Natural born killers. I don't know if that's a band, or a film, or a series or what.

But I've heard it enough that. If you're a familiar with what it is, then I'm sorry for you, but You know, don't think that. I'm giving any warrant to whatever it is. But a natural born killer is not really. Is completely impotent completely powerless. Because it's by the Spirit that you put to death of deeds of the body.

A spirit born killer. Has a new nature from god. Power from god. To be killing his sin. He says, if you live according to the flesh, you will die. Is reminding us. That sinful activity is not only wrong. But it's harmful. There is more to death than the last death of the last day.

Every sin brings with it. Death. Harm. Misery. Treating god's name shamefully harming others, even the sins of believers. Think of david. And how much physical literal death. But how much sin? He brought upon the nation. Upon Joanne upon himself. Pom bathsheba. And so forth. Remaining sinful activity isn't just wrong.

It's harmful. If You live. According to the flesh, you will die. And so if We neglect the real spiritual killing of remaining sin. Not just the The attempt to change sinful habits. Or behaviors. But attacking sin itself, the principle of sin in us If we neglect. By faith in christ by the power of the spirit to attack sin.

That is in us, one of two deaths or both a way to us. There is the spiritual theological death of legalism. We may we may not be paying attention to the root of the sin in the heart and we may just be learning to speak in a lessonful way or behave in a less than full way.

But what we'll do then is instead of seeing sin for what it is, hatred towards god. And the expression of a wicked nature. That we inherited from our father, Adam. Will begin to see sin as a list of things that we do. And even more because the legalist loves to think of himself.

So well, Will begin to see sin as a list of things that we no longer do. And that we're proud of. And we may even be. Theologically sound and how we talk about it. I thank you. God, that i am not. Like other men. Like this. Sinner. Over here.

But i fast. Three times a day. And i and i and i What's he done? Sinners. Now, the list. Is not attacking. The sinful nature.

Lead to either legalism or antonymism. You know, the antinomian is the legalist who thinks there's one law. Thou shalt not be illegalist. And so he looks around at those who are keeping their lists and he says, those silly people with their lists, i'm so glad that i'm not like that sinner.

He sounds a whole lot. Like the Pharisee, doesn't he? But the one, Who in union with christ, by the spirit is attacking the very presence. Of remaining sin in him. Yes, he wants to stop. All of the works of the flesh. But he doesn't by the life of the spirit, he doesn't by the fruit of the spirit.

He doesn't do it as himself. No, that self-died he doesn't by faith in christ the life. He lives. He lives by faith in the son of god, who loved me and gave himself for me.

And so the one who is doing that can hear If by the spirit you put to death, the deeds of the body, And really there are two ways that grammatically. That, that could be but the way it is here is because it's addressing christians. Says, we are debtors. Not to the flesh.

And then he says, but if by the spirit you put to death, the deeds of the body. It's like when the disciples. Heard that Lazarus was asleep and jesus meant Lazarus was dead. But they thought he meant taking rest and sleep. John tells us I said, oh if he sleeps, he will be well.

That's the way the if is being used here. It's like our word since Since. Since by the spirit. You put to death, the deeds of the body. Can't you see dear question? As you are attacking your remaining sin, it is by the spirit that you are doing that. The spirit that only believers have.

The spirit who gives faith in christ, the spirit who gives life in christ.

Not killing of the deeds described in verse 13. Cannot be completed and it's like Because as long as we're in this body, there will be the those deeds of the body. There will be sin that dwells in us. But the principle of putting to death is the same starving.

It suffocating it strangling it Bringing to bear all of the wisdom and shrewdness. The the we can. By all the zeal and diligence. That we can. Now, the one who wishes to see. The power of his remaining sin weaken should not be surprised. That this does not happen. If he is not doing anything to weaken it.

Yes, it's the spirit who doesn't, but the spirit does it by working. Love for God, in us by working hatred for sin in us. It is you who put to death. By the spirit. The deeds of the body. And so the spirit applies Christ to us. And we can see that anyone who had then is not involved in this battle, he must not have the spirit, Because the spirit hates the deeds of the body.

How can he have christ? Because christ hates the deeds of the body. So if we're not fighting against remaining sin are predicament is much worse. Then just that our sinfulness is not being weakened and that we're not making progress and holiness. Because we actually rob ourselves of assurance. Because if i'm not, Killing my sin.

Then i'm lacking a great evidence that i have the spirit and that i have christ. And so peter. When he wishes for. The brethren not to. Not to lack assurance. But to be sure. Of their calling, and of their election. Not that works. Get you called, or elected? That's completely backwards and irrational.

But he says, make your calling and election. Sure. And he's talking about adding love and obedience to your faith. Because as you do this thing that only the spirit of god can produce and only from the son of god, does the spirit produce it? You realize i have the spirit, i have the son.

My calling is more sure than it was before my election is more sure to me, Not sure an eternity but sure to me,

Want to encouragement. This is for believers. You see the work has never complete in this world and it is often discouraging in this world. But if you are involved in it at all, Than it is by the spirit only. And, From union with christ. And we may be much encouraged, not only that we will live in the ultimate sense.

So that he is saying in part, Since by the spirit you are putting to death, the deeds of your body, you know, That when the body goes into the ground, you will be perfected in holiness. And when the body comes out of the ground, You're perfect soul will have a perfect body with which to obey God, he's saying that but He's also saying, That the more you kill sin, the more you will be alive in christ in terms of your love for god.

The more your sin weakens, the more, your love will strengthen. The more consistently you will obey in every area of life. If you have the, the one sin that has has been defeating you And you start killing all of your sin? The weakening of sin in every area as you as you thinking about how these thoughts may be brought into subjection to god.

And the the way i behaved myself and that situation it'll be brought and subjection to god. And and by the spirit you are putting to death, the deeds of the body. And then you come to this sin that has been defeating you and you find its power over you much weakened.

Because you have been in the boot camp of the holy spirit.

And since, By the spirit, you've been putting to death, the deeds of the body you will live. Now, this isn't This isn't a reality because of what we do, but because of what God does, He takes his life, his real life. Of love between the persons of the godhead and devotion between the persons of the godhead.

And he gives life to our mortal bodies. Where we start to do, things out of love and devotion to god. And thus, the lord does to every branch. That is in the lord jesus christ. Isn't that what he does? To the branch. That is in the vine, it gets pruned.

Which means it has pieces cut off. Because they're dead. And that's painful. To have pieces cut off, isn't it? But isn't he just giving you life? Isn't that what he's doing? Making you more fruitful. Or to change from john 15 to hebrews 12. This is what the father does with every true son.

He doesn't afflict him aimlessly, he disciplines him for holiness and as painful, Don't you see how? This pain is good for you and it don't. Don't make the mistake. Don't be mistaken. It is painful. In the one chapter, he uses the The description of having things cut off of you and the other chapter, he uses the description of being quipped.

And yet it is for our good. That we may bear much fruit that we may have the holiness. Without which we will not see the lord that we may have the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

And so it is by the work of the father. In. Our union with the sun by, The spirit. That we put to death, the deeds of the body. Goddess. Pruning. What is dead off of the branch? That is alive in the vine. Only by the spirit, may this be done, then if we trust and means, We will suffer defeat.

And those who trust in the means of god, instead of the god of the means. Usually end up trusting in means invented by men. Once we have taken our trust off of the lord, it will not, it will not remain isolated to trusting. In those particular things, the law it lord has commanded.

And we will start multiplying. Things like penance and strategy and therapy, and All sorts of things that we put our trust. Only from christ. Can our life come only from christ and therefore only by the spirit of christ. Can the death of our sin? Come. So, he works in us to love.

And to work to will and to work. So when he says work out your salvation with fear and trembling he's saying, isn't he put to death, the deeds of the body with fear and trembling how Because it is god who works in you? Both the will. And to work.

According to his, Good pleasure.

Well, there's Much more than we could say, but Out of time. Be killing sin. Be killing sins so that you Maybe sure that you have the spirit by whom, You kill sin. So that you may be sure that one day. The statement since you put to death, The deeds of the body present tense.

One day that statement will be past tense. Since you have. Put to death. The deeds of the body. And there are no more. You live. Entirely. Unto God. And forever. Amen.