

**Monday, August 7, 2023 ▫ Read Romans 8:12–13**

*Questions from the Scripture text: How does the apostle address them in v12? What does he say that he and they are? To what are they not debtors? (Not) to do what, according to the flesh? What would happen if they did live that way? What other way is there to live? What do those who live this way put to death?*

**What is it like, when Christ is in us and the Spirit dwells in us?** Romans 8:12–13 looks forward to the midweek sermon. In these two verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **when Christ is in us, and the Spirit dwells in us, it makes us brothers to one another, debtors to the Spirit, and killers of sin.**

**Brothers to one another.** The mindset of the Spirit, the life of the Spirit, belongs to believers because the Spirit has come to dwell in them as the One by Whom Christ Himself dwells in them. As we will hear, when we finish out the thought in vv14–17, this Triune Spirit not only ministers to us His own fellowship, and our union with Christ, but also our sonship to the Father. That makes us, in the greatest way imaginable (and indeed unimaginable!), brethren. So, at this point that is exactly how the apostle addresses the Roman church: “brethren” (v12).

**Debtors to the Spirit.** What do such Spirit-indwelt, Christ-indwelt brethren do? Whatever the Spirit tells them to. We came into this world under the power of the flesh, slaves of sin (cf. 7:14). But, believers are no longer under obligation to the flesh. They are debtors, but not to the flesh. Believers are under obligation to the Spirit.

vv12–13 set living according to the flesh over-against living according to the Spirit. The only way not to be a debtor to the one is to be instead a debtor to the Other. Living according to the flesh would be death. If we are to live, we must live according to the Spirit. It is an obligation, a debt. All who have Christ, who have the Spirit, who are adopted by God, live according to the Spirit. If we do not live this way, we are not His, and we do not live.

**Killers of sin.** So, brethren, we who are debtors to the Spirit... what do we do by the Spirit? We put to death the deeds of the body. It is only if we put to the death the deeds of the body that we will live. There is only living by the flesh, with sin killing us, or otherwise living by the Spirit with us killing sin. There is no middle ground. There is no such thing as an alive Christian who is neutral toward sin, who is not actively engaged in weakening its powers, starving it, suffocating it.

What is your relationship to the Spirit? To the Lord Jesus? To the heavenly Father? To other believers? What is your relationship to sin? How has this been working out in your mindset? In your habits? What does this tell you about whether you are alive or dead?

*Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving to us Your very Self in the Spirit. Grant that we would live as those who belong to You, not to our remaining flesh or indwelling sin. Indeed, give us that sonship to the Father, that union with the Son, that leading by the Spirit that enables us to put sin to death and to live. For, You are our life, and we ask this in Christ's Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP32AB “What Blessedness” or TPH400 “Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me”**

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Romans 8, 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, it needs of the body. You will live.

So, for the reading of god's inspired, and Inherent word. In a few weeks since. We were in romance due to some interruptions in the wood. We midweek meetings, With last time, we were very much encouraged. Because the spirit of god has come to dwell in us verse 9. And indeed, by the minister of the spirit christ himself is in us.

Uh, verse 10. And the spirits then. Who dwells in us verse 11. As enabling us to Use, even these bodies that are going to die because of sin. These bodies that are Uh, doomed to return to the dust. Yet, these bodies we may live in truly which means not just have them animated by.

By breath and circulation and so forth. But may offer. Every aspect of who we are. Onto the lord. For righteousnesses those who live in union with christ and for the service and obedience and glory Of god. So, he Identifies. What we are, what a believer is, and three different ways.

In verses 12 through 13 that come from having the holy spirit in us that come from being united to christ that come from being adopted by the heavenly father. Now if we're all adopted into the same family, that makes us brothers and sisters. And so even the way he addresses them in verse 12, when he says, therefore brethren.

Is actually a theological consequence. A Um, A relational. Consequence in reality. Of having the spirit of adoption who makes us call god our abba, as we're going to hear Um, and the next passage It's a consequence of having the spirit of adoption who dwells in us that we call one another brothers and sisters.

The mindset of the spirit, the life of the spirit belongs to believers because the spirit has come to dwell in us. As the one by whom christ himself. Dwells in us. And so the spirit ministers to us a fellowship with christ, The spirit ministers to us a sonship. With unto the father.

And since we have fellowship with christ, we are brothers in christ. And since we, Have a sonship. Our children of heavenly father, we have a brotherhood a sisterhood as the adopted children. Of the heavenly father. It's Very precious. When believers call themselves, call one another brethren. Because it has reference to.

What each of the persons of the trigon? God? Uh, have We have become to us in our relationship. To god through faith in jesus christ, and through the indwelling. Of the holy spirit. Very different than what a world link means when he says, bro, or bro, which is a horrible new word.

Uh, but The world wing isn't actually wrong. The brothers and adam. When it's not quite the, Brotherhood you want to have. It's a brotherhood that belongs to death

and leads to death. When we call one another brethren, we are recognizing A new relation. That the triune god has given us.

To himself. Now, if we are brethren, if we aren't wealth by the spirit, if we are united, To christ. If we are adopted by the father, Then we are debtors. In the first place. We are brothers to one another and second place. We are debtors. In this case, deutters to the holy spirit.

Uh, a debtor is someone who is under obligation? He? Has put himself or has been brought into a position. In which he's not free to do whatever he wants, he has to fulfill his obligation to another first. Now, we are not then debtors to the flesh to live according to the flesh.

In fact, living according to the flesh isn't living at all. And so you would put Um, you would put air quotes around live. In verse 12 and then the first live in verse 13. For if you live, according to the flesh, that's not true at all. Well, if you do what the flesh says, if just do whatever you feel like whatever, Original nature desires.

Then you will die. That's how those who are brothers and Adam not brothers in jesus and brothers in the spirit and brothers, his children of the, the, the father, Uh, it's brothers and atom. Who live? Quote unquote. According to the flesh. But we're not in adam anymore. We're not in our flesh anymore.

If we believe in jesus, we belong to jesus, you know, the holy spirit in you, you are in christ, you are in the spirit. You're an adopted child of the heavenly. Father. And so now rather than living, for whatever you feel like, whatever, impulses remain from your original nature.

We live by the spirit. We are debtors To the spirit. Yes, we came into this world under the power of the flash. We saw that. Well, back in chapter 7. Where we said for, we know that the law is spiritual the laws of the spirit, but i am carnal.

I am fleshly. Sold under sin. So i was a debtor I was sold. I was i had to sin. I had to. In in my flesh i had to send but i'm no longer in the flesh. When the spirit. So now, i have a new master, a new obligation, we are debtors To the spirit.

The only way not to be a debtor to the flesh, is to instead, be a debtor to the holy spirit. All who have christ, who have the spirit or adopted by god must live according to the spirit. That's there's only those two options that are to the flesh or debtor to the spirit.

So either you are going to live today. Every day. Of your life as someone who is under obligation to follow what the holy spirit teaches in the bible, with the holy spirit applies to us, From the life and the mind righteousness of the lord jesus christ. In our union with him.

Or if you're not living that way, the only other way to live. The only other way to exist again, live is Quotes or because it's a way to die. The only other way to live is to be a debtor to the flesh. So, which one are you under obligation to?

Which one? Are you going to be led by? In your life. So we're brothers, we're debtors and if we are a debtor to the spirit, then we are a killer of sin because that's what The spirit leads us to do. They see that in verse 13 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. And so, you're a killer. Question. There's a killer. Is a killer of sin. Either. We will be killing sin as those who are led by the spirit. And by the spirit, well, what does someone who lives by the spirit?

Do he puts to death, the deeds of the body? So either you are killing sin by the spirit. If you buy the spirit, you put to death, the deeds, the body will live or Sin is killing you. If you live, according to the flesh. You will die. So which isn't If you're not a killer you're being killed.

Again, those are the only two options. You're not identifying. That sin, which remains Starving it. Suffocating it straining it, not feeding it, not giving it opportunity. Not leaving it alone so that it can breathe. But always telling it. No always crushing it. It always choosing instead to delight in the lord.

Jesus always choosing instead to serve the Lord jesus to rejoice that we belong to him. And to be resolved that we will live as those who belong to him. Is this? It is this persistent. Attack on sin. To not let that sin that dwells in us. Have any room to move?

Any opportunity to grow. The worst thing we can do is. That not just tolerate it, but express it. If we indulge us in committed sin, We must immediately confess it a sin, repent of a turn from it, rejoice over god's forgiveness resolve ourselves again against it. Look to Christ by his spirit to give us his own life, to help us, love him instead, obey him instead serve him instead.

When you get into a habit of back sliding, When we get lazy about killing sin, It starts to it. Starts to regain strength, it starts to grow again like a tumor, like a cancer. It will assert itself. And so, there's this mortal combat that we're in. Christian must be.

A killer. So christian is a brother. Because of the relation that the triune God has brought us into with himself. Christian is a debtor. Because there's only two ways to live as a debtor to the flesh or a debtor to the spirit. And the christian is a killer. Is a killer of scent.

Because either you're killing sin. Or it's killing you. Are you? Which one are you and all three of us? Are you a brother in adam? Or are you a brother in in the lord? Are you a debtor to the flesh? Are you living in someone who's under obligation to your impulses?

Are you living as someone who's under obligation to the Holy spirit? And are you a killer of sin? Or are you being killed by sin? Lord, grant that we would be brothers and toddlers and killers. The lord help you. To be a killer of sin. Let's play. And thank you, father for this short.

But Very profitable portion of your word, we pray. That what it teaches us about you and the sun. And the spirit and our relation. With you and one another, that your spirit would write the truth of that. On our hearts. Pray that you would help us to be more aware.

Of how we are living. Whether as under obligation to the flesh. Or rather as under obligation. To your spirit. And we pray Lord that you would make us killers of our sin. Help us a lot to put this into practice today. Help us. We pray to put it in the practice.

And the rest of our life. Until sin is gone. Our only brothers, And fleshliness is going. Preserve us unto that day. We ask when jesus name. Amen.