

GOD FOR US: A Study in Romans 8

Two Paths - Romans 8:5-6

June 24, 2017

For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. - **Romans 8:6**

I. FLESH AND SPIRIT

- Paul is speaking in verses 5-6 about the things that occupy our thoughts and our lives. That which we “live according to...” (Matt. 12:33-35; Col. 3:1-4).
- Our worldview or mindset expresses our basic nature as Christ-follower or world-follower. Our nature determines our mindset (Matt. 12:33; Rom. 11:13-16).
- We may pursue either of two paths in life. Either one that pursues the “flesh,” or one that pursues the “Spirit” (Ps. 16:11; Matt. 7:13-14).

II. DEATH, LIFE AND PEACE

- A mind preoccupied with the flesh leads to death, both physically and spiritually (John 8:21-24; Eph. 2:1-3).
- A mind preoccupied with the Spirit leads to life and to peace (John 10:10; 14:27).
- Our mindset - here and now - has eternal consequences (vs. 6; John 8:21-24).
- Paul’s clear desire for the believers in Rome, and for us, is to be thirsty for God; and to set our minds on spiritual matters (Ps. 63:1; Matt. 5:6; 6:33).

KNOW: Two roads diverge in the path of your life. One path leads to spiritual life and peace, the other leads to spiritual death. There are only two paths from which to choose in life.

DO: Set your mind on the things of the Spirit.

Recommended Reading:

In His Steps, Charles M. Sheldon (LifePoint Library #813.54 SHE)

Keep in Step with the Spirit: Finding Fullness in God, J.I. Packer

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Romans 8:5-6

1. What contrast is Paul making in verses 5 and 6?
2. Can you think of ways in which you have experienced, or are experiencing, the “death” of walking in the flesh?
3. In your own life, have you seen examples of the “life and peace” that accompany walking in the Spirit?
4. Share among your group some ways in which you might try to speak with a non-believer about how living according to the flesh brings death. What are some ways in which life in the flesh leads to death, spiritually and maybe even physically?
5. What are some practical steps you can take in your life to “live according to the Spirit”?