

LESSON 16: ROMANS 8:12-39

Life in the Spirit

1. Paul writes in verse 12 that “we are debtors.” In what way is this so? Describe the obligation each Christian is under (vv. 12-14).
2. Paul states that “if you live according to the nature, you will die.” How can this be reconciled with his teaching on justification by faith?
3. Practically speaking, what does it mean to put to death the misdeeds of the body by the Spirit (v. 13)? Why is it significant that “all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God” (v. 14)?
4. What two spirits are contrasted in verse 15? Read and compare Paul’s teaching in Galatians 3:23-29.
5. How do we experience the reality and privilege of being God’s children (vv. 16-17)? How are we assured that we are sons of God? What does it mean to say that we are “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ”? And what is the significance of Paul’s final proviso, i.e., “provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him”? Does this erode our assurance all over again?
6. How will all of creation be affected by your redemption (vv. 18-20)?
7. In 8:21, what do you think is included in “the glorious freedom of the children of God?” What does Paul mean by this phrase?

8. What does 8:26-27, teach about prayer, and about God's response to our inadequacy?

9. How do the words "foreknew... predestined... called... justified... and glorified help in understanding how God accomplishes his purpose for you? What is God's good purpose for you?

10. Compare verses 31 and 28. How might this view of God differ from the concept of deity common among Roman pagans, and from that among believers today? How is verse 32 a demonstration of the principle stated in verse 28?

11. How might trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger or the threat of death cause you to question God's faithfulness (vv. 35-36)? In spite of these things why does Paul proclaim that we are "more than conquerors" (vv. 38-39)? How are you "more than a conqueror" in all things in Jesus Christ?

12. In verse 17, Paul stated that we must share in Christ's sufferings in order to share in his glory. How does this passage clarify and confirm this fact?