

Life Group Notes

Sunday 21 October 2018

Speaker: Scott Taylor

Series: Heights of Love

Title: Walking According to the Spirit

Passage: Romans 8:3-11

Last week we heard Andy McCullough very helpfully summarise the first 7 chapters of Romans for us and helped us understand how we've gotten to these verses in chapter 8 of Romans. This week we looked at Romans 8:3-11

Righteous Requirement of the Law

It is the requirement that is right in the eyes of God - the one who gave the law in the first place. God gave us the law because of sin, so that it could be revealed in us and then killed. But sin corrupted the law

The law in its most basic form was about how to relate to one another, it's what community in God's eyes looks like. Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:14: For the whole law is fulfilled in one word. "You shall love your neighbour as you love yourself."

In Paul's mind, the righteous fulfilment of the law is love for one another. - The righteous requirement of the law was love. Jesus himself says that the righteous requirement of the law is to love God and to love those around us. Jesus ultimately shows us this by dying on the cross for us and eliminating the power sin has over us.

Our love for one another is displayed as we walk.

Scott shows us 2 roads are mentioned in the passage:

Walking According to the flesh:

This is the road we walk on before we come to know Jesus before we are following him. Paul says that our minds will be set on the things of the flesh. When we walk in accordance with the flesh, our minds will be consumed with the things of the flesh and ultimately this will be death. Paul also says in Gal. 5:19 that walking according to the flesh can look like: sexual immorality, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarrelling, jealousy, fits of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness wild parties etc.

It can also look like we are like we are living defeated by sin, circumstance, relationships, work or money - things that keep us prisoners of the past.

Scott used the example of fear. He looks at how we can set our minds on the fear of the outcome of a situation, a final deadline, performance review. If that fear takes hold, we become consumed by it.

Walking According to the Spirit:

This is the path which has been made possible for us through the righteous requirement of the law, love for one another is displayed through Jesus. This path is hallmarked by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control.

This path leads us through dark valleys and across high mountains but because it is the walk according to the spirit it displays the love of God.

When we set our minds on the things of the Spirit - this is when we start to think about how the Holy Spirit, how Jesus, how God the Father, might think about things. How does God see your work colleagues, how does He see your boss, how does He see the tasks you hate doing? How does he see the sickness, how does he see your financial problem?

With our minds set on the things of the Spirit, we pray rather than worry. In our self-talk, we preach the gospel to ourselves rather than talking about the problem.

Only One Road:

We can often think that we are constantly jumping from one road to the other. But Paul reminds us that because of Jesus' work on the cross, we don't have a choice. We are only walking according to the Spirit. Our old lives are behind us. We now have the spirit dwelling in us.

The Holy Spirit helps us read our bibles, he's the one that reminds us of what Jesus said, he's the one who comforts us. In Ephesians, we learn He is like the seal of our salvation, a guarantee of our heavenly destination before we actually get there.

This is such great news for all of us who follow Jesus. This is releasing, it is freeing, it is remarkable.

Suggested Questions:

1. If your neighbour saw your life, would they say you are walking according to the flesh or the Spirit?
2. Are you every tempted to go back? What happens in those moments?
3. How does walking according to the Spirit shape the way we display God's love to those around us?