

Talk 1

Romans 8:1–17

The 'law' of the Spirit of life

Introduction

v1–4 The verdict now delivered by the Spirit

v5–8 The mind set now recreated by the Spirit

v9–11 The life now implanted by the Spirit

v12–13 The battle now joined by the Spirit

v14–17 The membership now received by the Spirit

Conclusion

- The flesh and death
- The law and the flesh
- 'works'
- The law and the Spirit
- The Spirit and the gospel

Questions for personal reflection

v1–4 How has God achieved what the law could not? How does this answer the cry of 7:24?

v5–8 What do these verse tell us about those who have the mind-set of the flesh? If a person has not benefited from the work of the Spirit how do they stand in God's eyes?

v9–11 Who is the Spirit? Who has the Spirit? What has the Spirit accomplished in those who have him?

v12–13 What will the Spirit do in those who have the Spirit? How does this explain your Christian experience? Why is this different to living under the law of sin and death?

v14–17 If you follow Christ you have the Spirit (v10), if you have the Spirit you are led by the Spirit. How has your status changed? What will this changed status mean—in terms of your identity, and in terms of your experience?

Questions for group discussion

What have we learned about any person who does not have the Spirit? How does this impact the way we see ourselves/our friends and colleagues?

Why is law impotent to bring change? How does this help us make sense of any and all efforts to effect moral change by 'law'?

What are the warnings for us, in terms of living by the law? In what ways do we Christians keep on trying to live by law/flesh?

What does the Holy Spirit achieve in those in whom he has worked?

How does all of this help you as you consider your own Christian life?

How will this help in general office conversations about morality/life and death/identity?