

New Covenant Presbyterian Church Sunday School

2/19/2023

Romans 8:1-17

WSC71

Q: What is required in the seventh commandment?

A: The seventh commandment requires the preservation of our own and our neighbor's chastity in heart, speech, and behavior.

Romans 8:1–17

[1] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. [2] For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. [3] For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, [4] in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. [5] For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. [6] For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. [7] For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. [8] Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

[9] You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. [10] But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. [11] If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

[12] So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. [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. [14] For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [15] For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" [16] The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (ESV)

DQ: Are people generally good, or generally bad? What elements of truth can you find in each of these sentiments? How are they lacking?

- The flesh brings death
 - Paul has established the sinfulness of man earlier in the letter
 - Romans 3:10–12: as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."
 - Romans 3:23: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - Sin = the flesh = the world

- In the history of redemption, there are two separate realms – flesh and spirit
- Sins are not committed in a vacuum
- There is no neutrality towards God
- The spirit brings life and assurance
 - Paul takes up that which he does many times in his letters: teaches the gospel of Christ.
 - God gave the Israelites the law
 - The law demanded perfect obedience
 - The weakness of the flesh blocked the purpose of the law
 - God sent Christ to keep the law
 - Christ took on flesh
 - Christ fulfilled the obedience demanded by the law, and received the judgment required of us
 - Christ removed the condemnation of the law
 - The power of the Spirit grants access to the redemption which is through Christ
 - Those who walk according to the spirit receive life
 - “the righteous requirement of the law is fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit”
 - Those in Christ are of a different realm
 - The contrast between flesh and spirit does not raise doubt, but rather offers assurance
 - The believer is in the Spirit; the Spirit is in the believer
 - The realm of the Spirit brings life
 - The flesh demand payment that we do not owe
 - Moo: “Like freed slaves who might, out of habit, obey their old masters even after being released – legally and positionally – from them, so we Christians can still listen to and heed the voice of that old master of ours, the flesh.”
 - The Spirit moves us to right action

DQ: In verse 13, is Paul giving us an instruction manual on how to get to heaven?

- Through the spirit, God adopts us as sons, not slaves
 - The sons are distinguished by the fruit of the Spirit
 - The children of God address him with affection
 - Mark 14:36 - And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

DQ: How would you explain God’s adoption of Christians to someone who does not have good memories/associations of their earthly father?

- Since we are sons, we are heirs of the promise