



Sorry about the number of typos last week... Will try harder this time!

We continued our short series in Romans 8 this week from v12-17 beginning the sermon with hypothetical story of a boy who's moved from a damaging family into a new loving environment. His old family though, begin to try and get in contact and call him back to his old way of life.

It's a hypothetical scenario but of course our battle is not hypothetical. Paul has been describing just this kind of situation for the Roman Christians. Because we now have the Holy Spirit though, life is not the same anymore:

1. Having the Spirit means we engage in a new fight v12-13

Living as a Christian means living in a battle, that in itself can be a challenge for us as we perhaps expected it to be easier, or indeed we are influenced by the world's message that says self is king.

And yet Paul reminds us that because of who we now are and because of where that life leads we must not live as we used to. Despite our old family trying to get in contact and call us back, we need to remember that is not us anymore and indeed that way of living does not lead to life but rather death.

Hence, we must be those who kill our sin - just as Jesus told his disciples to cut off your hand or gouge out your eye, so we must be brutal. Our problem is we get used to it! And don't care that much. We just make our lives look respectable rather than being wholehearted in our commitment to uproot sin. Remember the example of weeding in the back garden?! We got for respectability rather than dealing with the foundational problems.

How do we kill our sin?

- a) Firstly it's an ongoing verb and so something we must do every single day. There's not a day when we're not to kill sin.
- b) Secondly we're not to try and do it in our own strength but rather use the power that God has given us by his Spirit. Remember the example of Fred with his polystyrene sword?!

2. Having the Spirit means we belong to a new family v14-17

We have been adopted by our heavenly father and so are his children now. Those led by the spirit of God (v14) are those who put God first and are controlled and governed by his spirit (rather than being a verse about guidance).

Our adoption is not to slavery, but rather we are heirs of him and co-heirs with Christ. He describes us as being sons

... it's a word he uses deliberately to preserve the idea of status and standing because the son was the one to inherit. The idea is we are not adopted to the bottom of the pile but rather the father is generous. Even to the point that...

...We are heirs of God which doesn't just mean that we just get God's promised blessings - rather it's as if we inherit him. God is the prize of the gospel! Wow.

... Sonship though means like Jesus be sure and his sufferings. This will be where Paul goes over the next few weeks. But it means essentially that as his family we are at odds with the world as Jesus was. Like him we experience suffering now and look forward to the glory to come.

Here are a few questions to help your group begin to process the application of these verses

- what do you remember so far from Romans 8? Has anything stuck with you these last few weeks?
- how much do you remember in day-to-day life that Christian living is a battle? What are some of the battles that we face to live according to the flesh? When are you surprised by the battle?
- Do we try and fight sin and the flesh? How do we try and fight it? How should we try and fight it?! What does that mean in practice?
- Why does it matter that we are now part of a new family? What does that mean for us? How does that help us to remember who we are?