
Wednesday Night Gel Group Online

It is great to have you here as part of our online study tonight. We are going to continue with Romans 8 and focus on what Paul wrote in verses 12-17. Let's pray and read these verses.

1. The key word for first couple of verses is "obligation". If you were obligated to do something, why would you want to do it? What could be some of the reasons or motivation?

2. There are three points we could make on verses 12-13. If we were having a conversation with someone either in a small group at church or with someone you pray with, how would you explain the following points:
 - (a) Paul is serious about the need for us to put into effect the new life God gives us.

 - (b) This response is itself powered by the Spirit. We cannot stop committing sins in our own power, it can only be done 'by the Spirit'.

 - (c) What Paul is asking is clear. A long-term goal for believers to become less like the world (i.e.: the flesh) and more like Christ.

3. Let's stop and understand the importance of what Paul meant by the word '*sarx*' "flesh" in verse 12 and 13. We need to be mindful that he sometimes used the word '*sarx*' to refer to the physical body as a whole (1 Corinthians 6:16; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 12:7; Galatians 5:13; and Ephesians 5:31) as how it would have been spoken in the everyday Greek use of the word. But, the physical element is often lost when he uses the word to refer to the person generally as seen in a literal use of '*sarx*' or 'flesh' in Romans 3:20 "because of the works of the Law, none of all flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law is the knowledge of sin." (MKJV) Paul's special use of this word in this reading, is probably strongly influenced by the Old Testament in what is human in distinction from God and the spiritual realm. See Isaiah 40:6-8; Psalm 103 as examples.

4. If verses 1-13 are about the 'Spirit of life' then 8-14 are about the Spirit of?

