



ROMANS

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Sermon Reflection Questions

“The Spirit of Life Has Set You Free” (Romans 8:1-17)

What currently brings you joy? When was the last time you truly celebrated? What makes you rejoice in the Lord? Which aspects of the gospel message make you want to praise the Lord for His faithfulness?

How do you see the liberating work of the Holy Spirit in vs. 1-4? How does this quote by Kent Hughes help you see this better? Kent Hughes: *The Law held up its perfect standard, but was unable to empower us to live up to that standard because of the weakness of our flesh. There was nothing wrong with the Law. The problem lay with the weakness of our flesh. Since our flesh was inadequate, God sent Christ in “the likeness of sinful flesh.” Paul was very careful about his words here. He did not say Christ came “in sinful flesh” because that would imply sin was in him. Nor did he say, “likeness of flesh” because that might imply Christ only seemed to be in the flesh. He said, “the likeness of sinful flesh” because Christ took on man’s flesh without becoming a sinner. Cranfield writes, “. . . the Son of God assumed the selfsame fallen human nature that is ours, but . . . in His case that fallen human nature was never the whole of Him.”³ Christ became a sin offering as he took our sin without sinning. Thus his flesh remained strong and unfallen. As a result “he condemned sin in the flesh.” That is, he conquered sin.*

How have you seen your relationship to God’s law change in your own life? How has it moved from a “have to” to a “want to”?

Paul mentions 4 gifts given to Christians by the Holy Spirit (a new mindset, a new sense of their lives, a new sense of obligation, a new identity) in verses 5-17. Which one of these is the most hopeful for you?

How does Westminster Shorter Catechism question #36 help you better understand the present benefits of being liberated by the Holy Spirit? What are the benefits which, in this life, do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification? A: *The benefits which, in this life, do accompany or flow from justification, adoption, and sanctification, are, assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.*