

ROMANS 8:5-7

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5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. NAS

5 For <gar> they that are <on> after <kata> the flesh <sarx> do mind <phroneo> the things <ho> of the flesh <sarx>; but <de> they that are after <kata> the Spirit <pneuma> the things <ho> of the Spirit <pneuma>. (KJV)

1. Here Paul describes the unregenerate heart. It is living according to **flesh** or **sinful nature**, and has its mind set on the things of the **flesh** or **sinful nature**.

They that are under the influence of the corrupt and sinful desires of the flesh,

Gal 5:19-22 - 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. NAS

Burkitt says, "They mind them; that is, they relish and savour them, they lay out their thoughts about them, and let out their endeavours after them."

Those who are after the flesh, have no drive or desire for heavenly or eternal things, as they are living according to the present life and those things which are temporary and perishing. They are supremely devoted to the corrupt desires of the sinful nature. Their minds are set on earthly things, and it is those things they relish and savour. They live and die for those things which are temporary and perishing.

Rom 8:12-13 - 12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. NAS

Indeed those who are after the flesh, cannot even understand or perceive the things of the Spirit, for they have not the Spirit.

1 Cor 2:14 - 14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. NAS

It is in these people that the righteous requirement of the law (v-4) is not being met but rather transgressed. Those who live according to the flesh indeed cannot please God.

Question: Is it evident when someone is according to the Flesh?

2. In the same way, those who are according to the Spirit, do mind the things of the Spirit. They live according to, have passion and desire for the things of the Spirit, and the righteous requirement of the law is being met in them. They are relishing and savouring the things of the Spirit, which are also evident.

Gal 5:22-23 - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Those who live according to the Spirit, as verse 14 says, are the sons of God. They are engulfed in and driven by heavenly and eternal things. The zeal of their hearts is to fulfill the Master's will, and set their minds on spiritual things continually. As Paul instructs us in Colossians;

Col 3:1-4 - 1 If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. NAS

They live a life, led by the Holy Spirit, being guided and driven by those things, which are pleasing to God. They devote themselves wholeheartedly to fulfilling the will of God in their daily lives. They are under the influence of the Holy Spirit and His righteous and Holy desires.

Question: Is it evident when someone is according to the Spirit?

3. This scripture is a wonderful device in the testing of our faith. That we should test ourselves to see if we be in the faith. As Paul instructs:

2 Cor 13:5 - 5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed you fail the test? NAS

The Christian is marked by the life he lives. If we are indeed the sons of God, and led by His Spirit, our lives will bear this out. The fruit of His Spirit will be hanging on the branches of our lives. We must examine ourselves, and by this we will know if we belong to Christ.

John 13:35 - 35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." NAS

John 15:8 - 8 "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples." NAS

Acts 26:20-21 - 20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds. NIV

1 John 3:10-11 - 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother. NAS

The love of God should be evident in our lives if we live according to the Spirit.

Question: What will be the outcome of those who live according to the flesh? What will be the outcome of those who live according to the Spirit?

Romans 8:6 - 6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace. NAS

1. Here we see the outcome of those who live according to the flesh and Spirit. As the scripture says,

Gal 6:7-9 - 7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. NAS

If a man lives according to the Spirit, he will possess life and peace. And this life is not only for the life in this body, but will indeed extend throughout all eternity. He will live

forever. And that life will be in an abundance of Peace, in the city of Peace, with the Prince of Peace.

Ps 34:8-10 - 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! 9 O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him, there is no want. 10 The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing. NAS

The man who lives according to the Spirit will rest from his labors, indeed his soul will find rest and will have peace on every side and his enemies shall not be found again. He will live in the Kingdom of Peace and enjoy the blessed God forever!

On the other hand, if any man lives according to the flesh he will reap destruction and death. There will be no peace for that man, indeed there will be no rest for the wicked. Even the life he now lives will ebb away in bondage to sin. A slave bound to his sin, ever laboring and never being rewarded. He will never find rest for his soul, although he will long for it forever and ever, it will no be found by him. Indeed the place where he dwells, the fire will not be quenched and the worm will never die. He will lie down in torment, never to find comfort or peace through the eons of eternity. Even these are the rewards of death, the great enemy which pursues us.

But there is a way of escape. Won't you give you heart and life to the Prince of Peace. In His presence is life and peace and joy forevermore.