



# ROMANS

The Greatest Letter Ever  
Written!

Two Categories	
<b>THE PERSON DOMINATED BY THE FLESH</b> <b>"they that are after the flesh" (v.5)</b>	<b>THE PERSON DOMINATED BY THE SPIRIT</b> <b>"they that are after the Spirit"</b> <b>(v.5)</b>
Two Realms	
"IN THE FLESH" (v.8)	"IN THE SPIRIT" (v.9)
Two Spiritual Conditions	
"He is none of His." (v.9)	He is His. (He is a Christian.)
Two Births	
Born of flesh (Jn.3:6) (We are in the flesh by natural birth.)	Born of Spirit (John 3:5-6) (We are in the Spirit by the new birth, by regeneration.)
Two Mind Sets	
He sets his mind on the things of the flesh (V5-7).	He sets his mind on the things of the Spirit (V5 and Col. 3:1-2; Matt. 16:23).
Present Condition	
Death (V6) (Having no relationship with God) Cannot please God (V8)	Life and Peace (V6) Life in a dead world Peace in a troubled world
Future Condition	
Death (V13) (See Galatians 5:19- <u>21</u> )	Resurrection life (V11,13)

## Present Possession

He does not have the Spirit (V9).

He has the Spirit (V9).

## Relationship to God's Law

Lawless (V7)  
He is a rebel against God's law  
and one who CANNOT submit to  
it.

The law is fulfilled in this Spirit-  
controlled person (V4).

## Relationship to God

An enemy (V7 and compare Rom.  
5:10)

A son (V14)

## Guidance

No supernatural guidance (V14)

Led by the Spirit (V14)

## The Person's Obligation

He is obliged to live after the flesh (V12). There is no other way that he can live. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh" (John 3:6). The person who is "in the flesh" must live in that realm. He is dominated by his sinful nature inherited from Adam.

He is obliged to mortify (put to death) the deeds of the body (V13). POSITIONALLY this has already been done (Gal. 5:24) but EXPERIENTIALLY this needs to be done by faith (Col. 3:5; Rom. 6:11 in view of Rom. 6:6; etc.). By faith I must reckon on what has already been done by Christ.

Review:

# The Great War

Spirit vs. Flesh



1. **The flesh cannot be changed.** The rebellious, non-submissive flesh will never be transformed into submissive, obedient flesh. God's method of dealing with the flesh is not to change it but to **CONDEMN IT** (Rom.8:3) and **CRUCIFY IT** (Gal.5:24; 2:20 and Rom.6:6).
2. **The flesh cannot be reformed.** It cannot be corrected or restored to purity. That which is corrupt remains corrupt. That which is desperately wicked remains desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9). The Church was reformed (we speak of the Protestant "Reformation") and restored to some degree of purity but the flesh will never have a reformation. Two thousand years ago it did not have a REFORMATION but it had a **CRUCIFIXION!**
3. **The flesh can never be trained.** The flesh is stubborn. It refuses to change its ways. It's immutable. You can never teach the flesh how to please God. The flesh is incorrigible--incapable of being corrected or amended. The flesh refuses to change its ways. The works of the flesh always remain the same (see Gal 5:19-21).

**4. The flesh cannot be improved.** It always remains as it is: depraved, corrupt, wicked, sinful, evil, anti-God, rebellious, stubborn, proud, etc.

**5. The flesh cannot be reconciled to God.** It is always and ever opposed to God (see Gal. 5:17). It will never be at peace with God; instead there is constant war. God can never be brought into harmony with that which is out of harmony with His holy and righteous Character.

9-11 “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.”

1 Cor 6:19-20 “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have (in you) from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”



**Rom 8:3-4** “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.

**V9** “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.”

**1 Cor 6:19-20** “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have (in you) from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

**1 Cor 7:22-23** “For he who was called in the Lord as a slave is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a slave of Christ. You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.”

**Gal 5:24** “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

**Gal 3:29** “And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.”

**Gal 3:14** “so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.”

**1 Cor 3:21-23** “For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.”

**1 Cor 15:22-23** “in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.”

