

Romans 8:1-17

Series – The Holy Spirit: Growing in Relationship with God the Spirit

Message – Life by the Spirit

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Fifth Reformed Church

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A New Law

- Pentecost review...
 - Thanksgiving for harvest & thanksgiving for the Torah
- Exodus 19:4-6
- “On the day of Pentecost the law was given; it was convenient, therefore, that on the same day the old _____ was given, the _____ of the Holy Spirit should also be given” Severian, Bishop of Gabala (quoted in Raniero Cantalamessa, Life in Christ, p.116).
- Romans 8:1-2
- Law of sin and death???

A New Heart

- Moses, the law, and the covenant
- Exodus 24:7
- Ezekiel 36:25-29 – the promise of a new heart by the Spirit
- When the Holy Spirit enters us, He _____ us new hearts.
- Romans 5:5 / 2 Corinthians 5:17
- The “_____” of the new creation is the Holy Spirit in us, filling us with God’s love.
 - In the _____ law, God told people what they should or should not do.
 - In the law of the Spirit, God “no longer limits himself to telling man what he should do or not do, but he _____ does it with him and in him” (Raniero Cantalamessa, Life in Christ, p.121).

A New Obligation

- Romans 8:12
- Our obligation is to live _____ to the Spirit.
- 1 John 5:3, John 14:23, Ezekiel 36:27
- The Holy Spirit makes us new, _____ the gospel itself.
- Galatians speaks of being “_____ by the Spirit” (Gal. 5:18) and “_____ by the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16).

“As our ‘leader’ the Holy Spirit takes the initiative. He asserts His desires against those of the flesh and forms within us holy and heavenly desires. He puts this gentle pressure upon us, and we must yield to His direction and control” (John Stott, The Message of Galatians, p.152).

- “Let us keep in step with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25)
- This involves _____ things: listening to the Spirit, turning away from sin, and turning toward God.
 - Listening
 - Turning away
 - Turning toward

Reflection Questions

1. What struck you in the section “A New Law”?
2. What evidence do you see in yourself that you’ve received a new heart and that the Holy Spirit lives within you?
3. One commentator said that “God no longer limits himself to telling man what he should do or not do, but he himself does it with him and in him.” Have you sensed this reality in your life, where the Holy Spirit directs and even does the thing God is asking of you? Share the details of a specific experience.
4. Explain how our new obligation is not a burdensome duty but a joyful delight.
5. What practices have you found helpful to keep in step with the Spirit?
6. How is God getting your attention?
7. What might God be saying to you?
8. What are you going to do about it?