

Cornerstone Bible Church

How Do I know I'm A Christian?

Walking in the Spirit

(Romans 8:12-17)

Survey of Romans part 24

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Context Review: What is it to be spiritual?

The Pillar Commentary (Leon Morris) states:

1. There are no imperatives in the chapter
2. The passage is sandwiched between 2 Gospel promises:

- “There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus”
- “There will be no separation from the love of God, in Christ Jesus.”

3. This sets the platform for sanctification.

Life in the Spirit is not about personal effort in the flesh, but about living in the realm to which we were called to live, **because of the Holy Spirit in us.**

Rom 8:1-11 (changing “for” by “because”) - NT WRIGHT -

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

² [**because**] the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

³ [**because**] God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

...

⁵ [**because**] those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

⁶ [**because**] to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

⁷ [**because**] the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.

⁹ **You, however**, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you.

How do I know I am saved? Birthmarks of being a Christian

Paul expands on the subject

Text: Rom 8:13-17

Outline:

1. Living in the Spirit 12-13

a) The mortification of sin

2. Guided by the Spirit 13-14

a) To Freedom from a slavish fear

b) To Intimacy with God

3. The Witness of the Spirit 15-17

a) Of our Adoption, in Christ

b) Of our Inheritance, in Christ

c) Of our Hope even in suffering, because of Christ

We will not complete
the material today

How do I know I am saved? Birthmarks of being a Christian

Text: Romans 8:13-17

¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh

¹³ [because] 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.

¹⁴ [because] all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

¹⁵ [because] you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷ and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

How do I know I am saved? Birthmarks of being a Christian

Introduction: How do I know I'm a child of God?

- Children bear genetic marks of their parents..
- It is no different with the family of God.
- Romans 8 puts us face to face with the subject of “evidences of Grace” or “Birthmarks of Adoption.”
- How do I know I am saved? The answer is: “believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.”

How do I know I am saved? Birthmarks of being a Christian

Introduction: How do I know I'm a child of God?

- Well, I believe, but how do I know “I have not believed in vain?”
- Romans 8 has the answer.
- However, before looking at it, I want to consider some caveats.

How do I know I am saved? Birthmarks of being a Christian **Caveats**

1. Turning Grace into a formula:

- “I know I’m saved because I accepted Jesus and was baptized”.

2. Confusing Law and Gospel:

- By turning away from Christ into the fruits of salvation.
- By embracing the error of the Judeizers:
- Law->Faith->Law **Wrong!!!!**
- Beware of splitting hairs on Salvation. Ephesians 2:8-10 is one package.
- “Saved by Grace Through Faith, not by works, but for good works, God prepared.”

How do I know I am saved? Birthmarks of being a Christian **Caveats**

3. Being misled by material blessings:

- This was the disciples' mistake with the rich young ruler and continues to be our mistake to this day.

4. Being misled by sufferings

5. Confusing the inclinations of a corrupt heart and a distorted conscience with the “leading of the Spirit”

- My experience at a SGM Conference
- Then what do we do with our “impressions”?
- Are they according to Colossians 3:16 or Jeremiah 17:9?
- If your impressions are neutral, test them against the filter of Scripture. Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25

How do I know I am saved? Birthmarks of being a Christian
Paul does not leave the subject of our birthmarks of childhood to “impressions” or to the “subjective”

1. **Living in the Spirit (verses 12-13)**
 - a) The mortification of sin

2. **The Guidance of the Spirit (verses 13-14)**
 - a) To Freedom from a slavish fear
 - b) To Intimacy with God

3. **The Witness of the Spirit (verses 15-17)**
 - a) Of our adoption, in Christ
 - b) Of our inheritance, in Christ
 - c) Of our hope in suffering, because of Christ

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