

Why Not Live?

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 8:5-13.
- B. Righteousness is the key word in Romans.
- C. Righteousness is self-worth, and it can only be gained as a gift of God.

II. The gift of righteousness can be imparted in two ways.

- A. It is continuously available by faith--this is justification by faith that brings us a new identity in Christ.
- B. It is righteousness on display in the works that we do, which is sanctification.

III. What one sets his mind on determines whether he will fulfill the law of the flesh or the law of the Spirit.

- A. The mind of the flesh is for the pleasures of life.
- B. The mind of the Spirit loves others and God and seeks God's glory.
- C. The thinking of the flesh is death, but the thinking of the Spirit is life and peace.

- 1. Death is fear, guilt, hostility and emptiness.
- 2. These result from seeking only the things that give pleasure.
- 3. Life is trust, acceptance and peace.
- 4. The mind of the Spirit pleases God.

D. Those controlled by the flesh cannot please God, but those with the Spirit are not controlled by the flesh.

- 1. The Spirit is the means by which Christ is in a believer.
- 2. Our inward man is linked with Christ and is being renewed. (II Corinthians 5)
- 3. The Spirit that is within us is stronger than the sin that is in our body, so we have power over sin.

Application questions:

1. What are the ways righteousness can be imparted? With which is Romans 8 primarily concerned?

2. Is it wrong for the Christian to experience pleasure? Explain.

3. What is the mind of the Spirit? How can the believer gain access to it?
