

The Body Is Dead But the Spirit Is Life

(Rom 8:10-11)

- Remember that chapter 8 is about the assurance of salvation “in Christ” (8:1)
- I. Paul has been contrasting the believer and the unbeliever in this sub-section
 - A) He has shown the effect the Spirit has on the Christian as compared to the mindset of the natural (lost) man
 - 1. Paul will now carry this comparison to the individual Christian
 - 2. He shows what is true of the body of the Christian and what is true of the spirit also:
 - i. Body is dead but the spirit is alive
 - ii. This is true of every Christian
- II. Terms
 - A) “And, but”
 - 1. V.10 & 11 both contain a Greek word that is left untranslated 4 xs here in KJV
 - i. *Ei*- A conditional subjunctive- “Since, if, for as much as”
 - a) Literally- “On the one hand the body is dead on account of sin, but on the other hand the spirit is life on account of righteousness”
 - b) This rendering is further confirmation of our exposition of the section running from 5:1 through ch 8 (“In Adam” -vs- “in Christ”)
 - 2. Compare the contrasted “but” in v.10 with v.9b
 - B) “Body”
 - 1. Body here does not mean “flesh” of 8:5-8 (natural fallen nature)
 - 2. It is instead the physical body, the “mortal body” of ch 6-7
 - i. This includes all the faculties: actions, thoughts, emotions, etc.
 - C) “Body is dead”
 - 1. This is not a command to “crucify the flesh” as some teach
 - 2. This is a flat statement of fact: the body is in a state of death
 - i. Rom 6:11-12- Same idea
 - ii. Adam’s sin has brought the seed of death into the human race
 - a) This is true physically, but also spiritually and morally
 - b) This is the same teaching of Rom 5:12-21
 - c) Sin works in our mortal body/uses our mortal body against us
 - d) The “body” is our greatest enemy (as in ch 7)
 - 1) 1 Cor ch 15- “Sown in corruption” and “this corruptible”
 - D) “Spirit”
 - 1. The translators of the KJV have capitalized this
 - 2. But this is not the “Holy Spirit”, for that breaks the contrast Paul is making

- i. The physical part of the individual is being contrasted with the spiritual part (as in the whole section with Adam -vs- Christ)
- ii. Thus the “on the one hand, but on the other....”

E) “Spirit is life”

1. Doesn’t say “will be” (although he goes on to say the body “will be”)
2. Spirit is alive now because of the seed of righteousness sown in it
 - i. 1 Pet 1:23- “Born of incorruptible seed”
 - ii. 1 John 3:9- “Seed remaineth in him”
 - iii. 2 Pet 1:4- “Partaker of the divine nature”
 - a) Great book by Henry Scougal- “The Life of God in the Soul of Man”
3. But the spirit wasn’t always alive, it had to be regenerated
 - i. Eph 2:1-4- Dead in sin then quickened
 - ii. Rom 6:2-13- Dead to sin, alive unto God (in the spirit)
 - iii. John 5:21-24- “Passed from death unto life”
 - iv. Rev 20:1-6- “The 1st resurrection”
 - v. Col 3:1-4- ‘Risen with Christ’
 - a) “Shall also quicken your mortal body”
 - 1) This is the point Paul is making in Rom 8:10-11:
 - (a) As Christ was quickened physically, so will we be

F) “Because of”

1. On account of, due to

G) “Righteousness”

1. This is not referring to the level of my righteous walk
2. This is the righteousness of Christ
 - i. Imputed righteousness (justification) and then imparted (sanctification’s process) and finally physical righteousness (glorification)
 - a) Compare with the entry of sin by Adam:
 - 1) Sin entered an Adam died immediately spiritually
 - 2) Sin continued to work death in Adam/man’s soul & body
 - 3) Sin finally brought about the death of Adam’s body
 - ii. Rom 5:17-21- Christ’s righteousness is the grounds of our bodily resurrection

III. Doctrine

A) 1 John 3:8- Christ came to destroy the works of the devil

1. As the death that comes by sin is complete, so must redemption be complete
2. Rom 8:22-23- Paul’s explanation of v.11
 - i. The body of the believer “is dead”, but it won’t always be
 - ii. 2 Cor 4:7-18- Commentary of this teaching
 - a) “Inward man” = spiritual portion of saved man
 - b) 2 Cor 5:1-7- As our spirit is housed in the “dead body” currently, there will be a new abode for it soon