

“I am A CHILD OF GOD”

Romans 8:1 – 14

POINTS TO PONDER:

- We are all human. That's our common denominator.
- At some point, we have all been weak, frail, and failed.
- Often these frailties and failures define our identity.
- There is an identity crisis at hand in our nation. This identity crisis has also infiltrated believers and many do not know their identity in Jesus.

READ ROMANS 8:14

Romans 8:1

- To declare no condemnation, you have to belong to Jesus
- A lot of the stuff we deal with is spiritual.
- If the world is dealing with it, the church is too.
- Once we learn who we are in Christ – we can STAND.
- There are certain characteristics to belonging to Jesus.

Romans 8:2

- You will come against things in your life that are anti – Christ
 - These things are meant to tear you down.
 - They come to make you fall.
 - They lead to death in all areas of your life - spiritual, physical, emotional.
- We are fighting powers that are out to rob us of identity in Christ
 - There's a power of sin that is out to destroy relationship.
 - The things we see, think, and speak are open doors to destroy our identity.
 - These powers deceive us and leads us away from who we are called to be.

Can you identify any 'open doors' in your life at present? Explain.

Romans 8:3

- God declared an **END** in the body of Jesus.
- As a Christian you **CANNOT** play with sin.
 - It is a live “snake” that will bite you and drag you to the pit.
- Sin has no control over you – God broke that power.
- If sin controls you, you **DO NOT** belong to Christ.

You have to HATE sin.

- **Do you hate sin?**
- **What do you watch, read, listen to, speak, ...?**
- **What do you tolerate in your life?**
- **It's hard to tolerate sin and hate it at the same time. Why?**
- **Why is hating sin an identifier of belonging to Christ?**

Romans 8:4

- To know who you are in Christ, you have to learn to follow the Holy Spirit.
- It's difficult if you let your life be governed by emotion rather than God's Spirit.
- It's a necessity that you follow the Spirit.

What does it mean to you to 'follow' the Holy Spirit?

Why is following the Holy Spirit an identifier of those who belong to Christ?

Romans 8:5

- Sin works overtime to make us question and doubt.
- Satan always shows up with a question mark (?).
- He makes us question God and His promises.
 - He cause us to question God in tithing, forgiving, healing, ...
- Sin dominates you by leaving a question mark.
- Anytime you find a question mark at the end of humanity, sin is dominating you.
- God shows up with a "as a matter of fact", exclamation point (!).

Do you live by humanity (?) or identity (!)?

- Humanity = weakness but Identity = strength.

Romans 8:6

- Sinful = death but Spirit = **peace & life**
- **Identity is rooted in life & peace**
- When you answer NO to the promises of God, you are being controlled by the sinful nature.
- If you allow your life to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, you will be full of life and peace.
 - Knowing who you are brings peace.

Would you classify your present situation as one of peace or chaos?

Explain.

How would you define your identity in Christ? Strong? Weak?