

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2022**

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
CHAPTERS FIVE THROUGH EIGHT OF ROMANS—
THE KERNEL OF THE BIBLE**

Message Fifteen

Led by the Spirit of God to Be Sons of God in Reality and Practicality

Scripture Reading: Rom. 1:3-4; 8:2, 4, 6, 9-11, 13-15, 29; 12:2, 4-5; 2 Cor. 2:10; 3:18

- I. The deep, divine thought in the book of Romans is that God became man so that, in God's complete salvation, sinners may be redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, renewed, transformed, conformed, and glorified to become the sons of God, who are the same as God in life and nature, to be the members of the Body of Christ for His corporate expression—8:3; 1:3-4; 3:24; 5:10; 8:14, 29-30; 12:2, 4-5.**
- II. According to the book of Romans, the gospel of God is a gospel of sonship for the reality of the Body of Christ—1:3-4; 8:14; 12:4-5:**
- A. Romans explains how the individual Christ revealed in the four Gospels could become the corporate Christ revealed in Acts, collectively composed of Himself with all the believers—Acts 9:4.
 - B. In Romans Paul shows us that God's New Testament economy is to make sinners sons of God and members of Christ to constitute the Body of Christ to express Him—12:4-5.
 - C. The gospel in the book of Romans is the gospel of the One who is now indwelling His believers as their subjective Savior; the gospel of God, as the subject of Romans, concerns Christ as the Spirit within the believers after His resurrection—1:1, 9; 8:9-11.
 - D. The purpose of God's salvation is to have Christ, the firstborn Son of God, reproduced in millions of believers, the many sons of God, so that they may become the members of His Body, not separate and complete individual units but parts of a living, functioning, coordinated, corporate whole—12:4-5.
- III. The desire of God's heart is to have many sons for His eternal, corporate expression—Eph. 1:5, 9, 11; 3:11; Rom. 8:29; 2 Tim. 1:9:**
- A. In eternity past God predestinated us unto sonship according to the good pleasure of His will—the desire of His heart—Eph. 1:5, 9; Phil. 2:13:
 - 1. Sonship implies having the life of a son and the position of a son—Rom. 8:16-17.
 - 2. Being a son of God requires that we be conformed to a particular form or shape—the image of the firstborn Son of God—v. 29; Col. 1:15.
 - B. When we believed in Christ, the divine life with the divine nature—in fact, the divine being of the Triune God—entered into us, and we were born of God to become sons of God; we are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus—John 3:6, 15; Gal. 3:27.
 - C. According to the Bible, the spiritual significance of sonship is that a son is the expression of his father—Heb. 1:3.
 - D. God wants not simply an individual expression in the only begotten Son but a corporate expression in many sons—John 1:18; Heb. 2:10.
 - E. As sons of God, we have received a spirit of sonship—Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6:

1. Because the Spirit of the Son of God has entered our spirit and we have been born of the Spirit in our spirit, our spirit has become a spirit of sonship; this spirit is a mingled spirit—John 3:6; Rom. 8:15.
2. Sonship in this spirit includes the life, the position, the living, the enjoyment, the birthright, the inheritance, and the manifestation of a son; such an all-inclusive sonship is now in our spirit—v. 23.

IV. If we are led by the Spirit, we are sons of God in reality and practicality—v. 14:

- A. Strictly speaking, the leading by the Spirit is not a matter for activities; it is a matter for our daily living—v. 4.
- B. Paul’s intention in bringing forth the matter of being led by the Spirit is to show us what it is to be a genuine son of God—v. 14.
- C. The leading by the Spirit is not outward but inward and is composed of the law of the Spirit of life, the Spirit, and life—vv. 2, 6-13.
- D. The leading in Romans 8:14 is not merely an action of the Spirit; it is the Triune God Himself becoming the leading in our spirit—vv. 2-3, 5, 9-11, 14-15.
- E. We do not need to seek after the Spirit’s leading, since it is already present within us, dwelling in our regenerated spirit—John 3:6; 1 Cor. 6:17.
- F. Romans 8:14 speaks of our being led by the Spirit rather than the Spirit’s leading us, indicating that although the Spirit is ready to lead us, we must take the initiative to be led by Him.
- G. If we would care for the all-inclusive Christ as a person who indwells us, we will spontaneously be led by Him as the life-giving Spirit; this means that we need to take Him as our life and everything and that we must put to death everything of the old creation in us—Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17; Col. 3:4; Rom. 8:10, 13.
- H. In our daily Christian life, walking according to the spirit, setting our mind on the spirit, allowing the Spirit of God to dwell, to reside, in us, putting to death by the Spirit the practices of the body, and being led by the Spirit of God are experienced simultaneously—vv. 4, 6, 9, 13-14.
- I. If we live by being led by the Spirit, we will walk according to the spirit and behave in a way that proves that we are sons of God—vv. 14-15.
- J. We cooperate and coordinate with this One living in us by looking to Him—2 Cor. 3:18:
 1. Looking at the Lord is realizing that He is not only with us but also in us—Col. 1:27.
 2. Before we say anything or do anything, we should look at Christ as the indwelling Spirit—Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:17.
 3. When we look at the Lord, the law of the Spirit of life immediately works within us and becomes a kind of automatic strength—2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:2.
 4. Paul looked to the Lord and was led by the Spirit when, in the person of Christ, he dealt graciously with and forgave a repentant brother—2 Cor. 2:10:
 - a. Literally, the Greek word rendered “person” in 2 Corinthians 2:10 means “face,” as in 4:6.
 - b. This is the part of the face around the eyes, that part which is the index of a person’s thoughts and feelings and which thereby signifies the presentation of the whole person—2:10.
 - c. The apostle Paul lived Christ in the closest and most intimate contact with Him, that is, living and acting according to the index of His eyes, the index of His whole person—Phil. 1:21a; 2 Cor. 2:10.
 5. “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, / Look full in His wonderful face, / And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, / In the light of His glory and grace”—*Hymns*, #645.