



MAKING GOD SMILE "By Living in the Spirit" Romans 8:1-14

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This Scripture talks about "those who live according to the sinful nature" and those "who live in accordance with the Spirit." The former, we are told, cannot please God. If we wish to please God we must give careful attention to what this means.

I. The Sinful Nature that Cannot Please God.

- A. A definition of the sinful nature (Gk. "sarx").
 - 1. Humanity conditioned by mortality—weakness, desires.
 - 2. Source of corruption and hostility to God.
 - 3. Humanity as a result of the "Fall"—depravity.
- B. A description of the sinful nature.
 - 1. Sinful nature as a dominating power—"sold as a slave to sin." 7:14
 - a. "I do what I do not want to do." 7:16
 - b. "The evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing." 7:19
 - 2. Sinful nature as a debilitating weakness. 8:3
 - a. "What I want to do I do not do." 7:15
 - b. "I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." 7:18
 - 3. Sinful nature as a defiant dynamic.
 - a. "A mind set on what the nature desires." 8:5
 - b. A mindset that is "death," hostile and incapable of obedience. 8:5-8

II. The Spirit of God Who Counteracts the Sinful Nature.

- A. The Spirit of God indwells the believer. 8:9
- B. The Spirit who indwells the believer "raised Jesus from the dead." 8:11
- C. The Spirit establishes a new "mindset," which leads to "life and peace." 8:6
- D. The Spirit enables us to "put to death the misdeeds of the body." 8:13
- E. The Spirit leads the sons of God—but we have to be willing to follow. 8:14
- F. The Spirit makes demands on us—we have an obligation. 8:12

Points to Ponder: What dominates my desiring, my discerning and my deciding?