

Mindset Matters

This semester we are going through a series called, “More Than Conquerors,” where we are going through Romans 8 a few verses at a time. The idea is that our students are constantly being told, and believing, lies about themselves and about God. Things like, “God can’t love me because of something that I did,” “I’m never going to get out of this sin struggle,” or “I’m not good enough to follow Jesus.” These lies, when they become a part of our identity, keep us from embracing a life with Jesus. Thus, Romans 8 (and this series) is meant to be a powerful weapon to combat the lies that we face daily. In the chapter, Paul rehearses many of the promises that are true for Christians. We want to be people who also rehearse these promises in our fight against lies. The first four verses tell us that we are free from the power of sin and Satan when we are in Christ.

Romans 8: 5- 8

5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **6** The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. **7** The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. **8** Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

Questions:

1. Verse 5 discusses the listed differences between having your mind set on the desires of the spirit vs. the flesh. In your own words, what are the desires of the spirit? What are the desires of the flesh?
2. What are some modern examples of having a mind “set on what the flesh desires”? How does our culture encourage us to feed these desires?
3. What would it look like to have a mind set on what the spirit desires? Do you think this is possible for you?
4. Do you think your mindset is important? How do you think your thoughts affect you?
5. Why can those who are in “the flesh” not please God (verse 8)?
6. What promises from God can we cling to from these verses? Specifically, what has God promised us if our mind is governed by the spirit?