

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Romans 8:5-8 (NIV)

Mind Set

I want to live a life that is pleasing to you. That is what I desire. That is my hope. That is my dream. That is my prayer. **That is very good. How will you live a life that is pleasing to me?** There is no mystery in knowing the answer to that question. Knowing how to live a life that is pleasing to you is not something that is hidden and difficult to understand. It is quite obvious that I, and every other person, have a choice to make. Two different choices are before me. **That's right.** One choice, setting my mind on the sinful nature will ultimately lead to death. That choice will lead me away from you. That choice will offer me the world and all that is in it and nothing more. Following that choice will lead me to live a bruised and battered and broken life. That life is filled with darkness and discouragement and depression. That life is without hope and meaning and purpose. **It sounds like you have some experience with living that life.** Yes, I do. I was on that road. I was living that life. I was pursuing my own comfort and pleasure. I was living for all that the world had to offer. It was an alluring and deceptive life. It gave false hope and meaning and purpose. It gave me no joy. It brought me nothing but darkness and discouragement and depression. I saw first-hand what life without you looked like. I felt the bruising and battering and brokenness of life in this world. I saw clearly the death this life was bringing to me. I wanted no more. I wanted none of it. I wanted something else. I wanted more. I know now, that I wanted you. I cried out to you. I asked you to come into my life. I asked you to forgive my sins. I asked you to be my Savior and Lord. You heard and answered my prayer. You rescued me from a life without you. **Yes, I did.**

What about now? You mentioned you had two choices. Yes, I did. **Tell me more about the choice you made.** I have chosen to set my mind on the things of the Spirit. **What does that mean?** My heart and mind and life are focused on you. I love you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. My life is in your hands. I am listening to your voice. I am being guided by your Spirit. I am relying on your help. I am going where you guide me. I am doing what you ask me. My life is not focused on what this world has to offer. In every way, on every day, I want to live a life that is pleasing to you. **That is very good.**

Heavenly Father, I want to live a life that is pleasing to you. I want to think your thoughts, speak your words and do your deeds. I will set my mind on the things of your Spirit. Help me to fully live the life you have called me to live. Fill me with your life and peace. Amen

Becoming Like Christ

Minds Set

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

NIV

Romans 8:5-8

Becoming Like Christ

Think About

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

NLT

Romans 8:5-8

Becoming Like Christ

Set Their Minds

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

NRSV

Romans 8:5-8

Becoming Like Christ

Set Their Minds

For those who are according to the flesh *and* are controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on *and* pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit *and* are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on *and* seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit. Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever], [That is] because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed it cannot. So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.

AMP

Romans 8:5-8

Becoming Like Christ

Set Their Minds

For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

NASB

Romans 8:5-8

Becoming Like Christ

Set Their Minds

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

ESV

Romans 8:5-8

Becoming Like Christ

Minds Set

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

NKJV

Romans 8:5-8

Becoming Like Christ

Think They Can Do It On Their Own

Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what he is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored.

MSG

Romans 8:5-8

Becoming Like Christ

Controlled By Their Lower Natures

Those who let themselves be controlled by their lower natures live only to please themselves, but those who follow after the Holy Spirit find themselves doing those things that please God. Following after the Holy Spirit leads to life and peace, but following after the old nature leads to death because the old sinful nature within us is against God. It never did obey God's laws and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their old sinful selves, bent on following their old evil desires, can never please God.

TLB

Romans 8:5-8

Becoming Like Christ

Think Only About Things

Those who live following their sinful selves think only about things that their sinful selves want. But those who live following the Spirit are thinking about the things the Spirit wants them to do. If people's thinking is controlled by the sinful self, there is death. But if their thinking is controlled by the Spirit, there is life and peace. When people's thinking is controlled by the sinful self, they are against God, because they refuse to obey God's law and really are not even able to obey God's law. Those people who are ruled by their sinful selves cannot please God.

NCV

Romans 8:5-8

Minds Set

Year ____ Week ____ Day ____ Date ____

Becoming Like Christ – Romans 8:5-8

In Context: *Read Romans 8*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Romans 8:5-8 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Those who | live according to | the sinful nature | have | their minds | set on | what that | nature desires; | but those | who | live in | accordance with | the Spirit | have | their minds | set on | what the | Spirit desires. | The mind | of | sinful man | is death, | but | the mind | controlled by | the Spirit | is life | and | peace; | the sinful mind | is hostile | to God. | It | does not | submit | to God's law, | nor | can it | do so. | Those controlled | by | the sinful nature | cannot | please God. Romans 8:5-8 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Heavenly Father, I want to live a life that is pleasing to you. I want to think your thoughts, speak your words and do your deeds. I will set my mind on the things of your Spirit. Help me to fully live the life you have called me to live. Fill me with your life and peace. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you found yourself setting your mind on something from the sinful nature?

Why will setting your mind on the sinful nature bring death instead of life and peace?

When have you noticed open hostility toward God by those who set their minds on the sinful nature?

How is daily setting your mind on the things of the Spirit helping you to live a life that pleases God?

How is setting your mind on the Spirit guiding your thoughts, words and actions?

Why will what you set your mind on guide the entire course of your life now and forever?

How are you experiencing life and peace as you set your mind on the things of the Spirit?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Set your minds on the things of the Spirit so you will live a life that is pleasing to God.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that you will live a life that is pleasing to God as you set your mind on the things of the Spirit.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are setting your mind on the things of the Spirit.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you set your mind on the things of the Spirit so you will live a life that is pleasing to God.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Heavenly Father, I will set my mind on the things of the Spirit so I can live a life that is pleasing to you.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Heavenly Father, how can I set my mind on your Spirit and live a life that is pleasing to you today?
