

FAMILY OBLIGATIONS

Romans 8:12-17

March 27, 2022

1. A New **Obligation** (vv. 12-13)

Key term: *Obligation*

opheileteôs - debtor - one who owes a debt; figuratively a delinquent; morally a transgressor (against God) ^(Strong's)

It is used metaphorically, of a person who is under an obligation ^(Vines)

KEY QUESTION: *Does the Spirit of God live in you?*

We have a debt we cannot pay.

He paid a debt He did not owe.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – You are not your own; you were bought at a price.

Question: *Are we obligated, as believers, to obey God?*

Answer: *Yes, in the sense that He has every right to command us & we have every reason to obey His commands. He IS LORD, particularly to all who are truly born again - to those who are family.*

Luke 6:46-49 ^(ESV) “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you...?”

Titus 3:5

Ephesians 2:8-9

Ephesians 2:10

V. 12 ^(NLT): “You have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.”

Key term: *Sinful nature - the flesh - our old nature - that part of us which seeks our own glory and our own comfort.*

v. 13 ^(NIV84) For if you live according to the sinful nature (ESV: the flesh), you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

v. 11-14 ^(New Century Version) You should see yourselves as being dead to the power of sin and alive with God through Christ Jesus. So, do not let sin control your life here on earth so that you do what your sinful self wants to do.

Do not offer the parts of your body to serve sin, as things to be used in doing evil. Instead, offer yourselves to God as people who have died and now live. Offer the parts of your body to God to be used in doing good. Sin will not be your master, because you are not under law but under God’s grace.

2. A New **Family** (vv. 14-17 ^{NIV84})

Key term: *Adoption - Greek: huihothesia*

From two words: uios - son and theo - to place

Spiritual - birth:

John 3:3; 8:31-47

Spiritual Adoption: *An act of God’s grace by which he brings men into the number of his redeemed family, and makes them partakers of all the blessings he has provided for them.*

KEY QUESTION: *Does the Spirit of God live in you?*

Obedience to the revealed will of God in our lives is a key to being in a right relationship with Him here and now, NOT because His love for us changes, but because OUR love for Him is STRONGLY affected by our obedience, or lack thereof...

The other side of this is the question of whether or not we are members of God’s family. If we are, then we should increasingly exhibit family characteristics. We represent our family, and in particular our Father.

Two questions for us here this morning:

Have you accepted God’s invitation to join His family?

If you have accepted this invitation and are confident that you are one of God’s children by virtue of His adoption and His choice of you, then are you living as His child? Are you seeking Him first and His righteousness?

A Truth to Remember: *Being a part of God’s family is a matter means being purchased by God at a price we could never repay.*

A Challenge to consider: *Since we are so deeply indebted to God, are we filled with gratitude and desire to obey Him?*