

2001 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa. 61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the
Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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April 29th, 2001

"THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST"

By Truman Claiborne

Romans 8:9- *"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."*

This is a broad and universal statement. It includes all classes of men and our stations in life do not enter into consideration here. This broad, sweeping statement is not only universal, but is quite positive in its declaration. It makes no difference what other things may be true of you, or of me, if we have not the Spirit of Christ, everything else amounts to nothing. There has been so much written on this subject that in this short space we will only touch a few points.

First of all, it is not only important, but is essential for us to understand what "the Spirit of Christ" means. I believe that Paul not only meant the Holy Spirit which dwells in every Christian, but likewise the mind, disposition, and attitude of our Lord. The Apostle Paul said in **Phil 2:5** *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,"*

A. The attitude of Jesus towards the Father.

When I think of the attitude that Jesus had towards the Father, I believe the writer of the Hebrew letter expressed it very well in **Heb 5:8-9** *"though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,"* It seems clear that the attitude of Christ towards His Heavenly Father was one of humility, perfect submission and absolute obedience, even though death was the results. Then we must have that same Spirit towards our Heavenly Father; else we are none of His.

When we look at the last trial and temptation through which He passed, we see Jesus as he prayed in the lonely Garden of Gethsemane and asked the Father, *"Father, if it be possible, let this cup (suffering) pass*

from me, nevertheless, not My will but Thine be done.” We must have that kind of Spirit and that kind of attitude towards our Heavenly Father.

B. The attitude of Jesus towards His earthly parents.

When He was 12 years old, He accompanied His father and mother to Jerusalem to attend the annual feast. When it was over they left for home and traveled some distance before His mother realized that Jesus was not in their company. Not finding Him among their kinsmen or acquaintance, she returned to Jerusalem and found Him there. After her reproof and His reply, He left Jerusalem and went with his parents down to Nazareth and was subject unto them.

C. The attitude of Jesus towards His enemies.

The attitude of Jesus towards His personal enemies, those who mistreated Him, slandered Him and told untrue things about Him, is very difficult for many to understand. Notice what Peter said of Him. **1 Pet 2:23-** *“who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;”* This is the Christ who said as recorded in **Matt 5:39-40-** *“But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek; turn the other to him also. 40 If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also.”* All of this suggests the Christ represented as the Lamb of God. I think it is good to know that there is no place in scripture to show that He ever retaliated with reference to personal injury, personal insult, slanderous reports, or anything of the kind.

If we have the “Spirit of Christ” we will follow the examples left for us as we read in **1 Pet 2:21-** *“For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:”* ###

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THE POWER OF SIN

by Gordon Wilson

“For the good which I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I practice” (**Rom. 7:19**; but see **verses 14-25** for the context).

From a casual reading of this text it would be all too easy to conclude that Paul relieves man of personal responsibility for sin. Certainly the tendency of our time is to remove all personal blame, ascribing wrongdoing to "sickness" or "compulsion." However, a more careful reading will show that an alternative to sin is always available.

The point made by Paul, one that we cannot afford to overlook, is simply that sin is a real force to be reckoned with. Perhaps we have thought too exclusively in terms of sin being merely some wrong act we perform; or limit it to a transgression of the law. The truth is that sin can be practically personified --it has strength and power. It can get us in its grip and turn us away from all that is good. This cannot happen without our submission to sin, but it can happen practically without our intentional consent.

We have seen it happen to people we love. They let themselves enter environments and situations where temptation is thrust upon them. Soon they are, in a small way, flirting with the temptation. They end by embracing a way of life alien to all they have been taught, and harden their hearts to justify it. We see such happen and say to ourselves that such a person is "mentally ill." No, the truth is that sin has gained the ascendancy -- and sin is a cruel and dominant slavemaster. It can happen to anyone who does not take account of the power of sin. *“Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”*

But the grace of God is powerful as well, and can uphold us when we are in danger of falling. It can uphold us if we will let it rule us always. *“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (verse 25). ###

SHEEP DON'T WALLOW

Author Unknown

There is an old story about a lamb and its mother. It seems the lamb passed a pig pen each morning on the way to the pasture with its mother. Watching the pigs wallow in the mud seemed like fun, and on an especially hot day, the lamb asked the mother if he could jump the fence and wallow in the cool mud. She replied, "No." Then the lamb asked the usual question, "Why?" The mother just said, "Sheep don't wallow."

This did not satisfy the lamb. He felt she was not being fair, that she was overreacting, and that she didn't have the right to tell him what he could or could not do! So, as soon as the mother was out of sight, the lamb ran to the pig pen and jumped the fence. He was soon feeling the cool mud on his feet, his legs, and soon his stomach. After a few moments, he decided he had better go back to his mother, but he couldn't. He was stuck! Mud and wool don't mix. His pleasure had become his prison. He cried out and was finally rescued by the farmer. When cleaned and returned to the fold, the mother said, "Remember, sheep don't wallow."

Sin is like that. It looks so nice, so inviting. We think we can escape from it any time we wish, but it is not always so. Sinful pleasures soon become prisons.

The *moral* of this story? **Christians don't wallow!**

Sin and sinners entice us to join in the passing pleasures of sin. But as the wise writer of Proverbs said, "Keep your feet from their path" (Proverbs 1:10-19).

Some Questions to Ponder, Quietly and Personally:

1. How does it benefit the Christian to avoid sin?
2. Some say that as long as we don't cross over the line of to sin we are okay. Others say we should get as far from sin as possible. Which do you feel is the correct, biblical approach to sin – and why?
3. Can we be a Christian just by removing sin from our lives? Why or why not?
4. Why does sin trap people? How does it do this? --via Jeff Hamilton

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### **THOSE WHO ARE SICK:**

*Sue Claiborne*  
*Truman Claiborne*  
*Helen Gray*  
*Willa Lockett*  
*Wendell Rapier*  
*Melanie Ries*  
*Norma Romine*  
*Jo Singleton*  
*Josie Steadman*  
*Nancy Valine*  
*Evie Westphal*

### **THOSE WHO ARE TRAVELLING:**

*The Reagan's* are in SoCal  
*The Sadler's* are in Oregon  
*Ronee Robertson* is in Bay Area  
*The Westphal's* in SoCal  
*The Shadman's* are OT  
*The Shuck's* in SoCal

PLEASE PRAY for these, and others you may be aware of, who are sick or away from this church family. **Prayers do avail!**

## IMPORTANT RECALL NOTICE!

The Maker of all human beings is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to the serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart. This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed, 'Subsequential Internal Non-Morality,' or more commonly known as S-I-N, as it is primarily symptomized by loss of moral judgment.

Some other symptoms:

- (a) Loss of direction
- (b) Foul vocal emissions
- (c) Amnesia of origin, AKA evolution fantasy
- (d) Lack of peace and joy
- (e) Selfish, or violent, behavior
- (f) Depression or confusion in the mental component
- (g) Fearful
- (h) Idolatry

The manufacturer, who is neither liable or at fault for this defect, providing factory authorized repair and service, free of charge to correct this SIN defect. The number to call for the recall station in your area is: P-R-A-Y-E-R. Once

connected, please upload your burden of SIN by pressing R-E-P-E-N-T-A-N-C-E. Next, download J-E-S-U-S into the heart. No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, the JESUS repair will replace it with:

- (a) Love
- (b) Joy
- (c) Peace
- (d) Long-suffering
- (e) Gentleness
- (f) Goodness
- (g) Faith
- (h) Meekness
- (i) Temperance

Please see operating manual, HOLY BIBLE, for further details on the use of these fixes. **WARNING:** Continuing to operate the human unit without correction, voids the manufacturer's warranty, exposing owner to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on J-E-S-U-S.

**DANGER:** The human units not receiving this recall action will have to be scraped in the furnace. The SIN defect must not enter heaven or else heaven will be infected.

--Sent in by Pat Mackey *[Bakersfield]*

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” **Psa 23:4**