

Romans 8:14-27
“Under New Management”

~ REVIEW ~

THE LAST TIME WE WERE TOGETHER...

- We talked about “*Freedom That Lasts*”
 - And we learned some differences between...
 - “*Living according to the flesh* (vs.) *the Spirit*”

WE DISCOVERED...

- That living according to the Spirit requires change...
 - In how we engage cultural-practices and beliefs.

WE LEARNED...

- We’re to stay away from spiritually dead behaviors.
 - Sexual standards for the church are governed by God
 - Social activities (drinking & partying) governed by God
 - Life ambitions are governed by God

~ INTRO ~

When we see a sign on a business – *Under New Management*.

- It announces to the public that past bad behavior...
 - Has been corrected and a new path is being taken.

SO TOO...

- In the Christian life we’re *under new management*.
 - The Spirit of God & the Word of God directs our lives.

IDEA #1 – FOLLOW HIM

THIS IS A VERSE...

- That helps us navigate away from the old life & into the new life.

(v.14) Led (Grk.) = *ago*’

- Willingly conducted OR controlled by another.

IN THE BIG PICTURE OF ROMANS...

- We’re in the final chapter of sanctification.

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Sanctification... is the method God uses...

- To remove the growth & power of sin in our lives.
- Literally... our habits & practices are changed...
 - As we begin living in obedience to his word.

DON'T MISS THE TRANSFORMATION HERE.

- The key is being Led = *willingly controlled by the Spirit*.

GOD'S NOT RUINING OUR FUN...

- He's giving us lasting joy that has no end.
 - There's no regret OR sorrow attached with His way.
 - (James 1:17)

AND THE BOTTOMLINE IS...

- God wants us to know Him
 - To recognize His character
 - And to follow Him as He leads us.

CAN YOU RECEIVE THIS?

NOW HERE COMES THE GROWTH... (v.14b).

- “... *these are sons of God.*”
 - We're part of His family.

Sons (Grk.) = Huios

- Speaks of a child mature-enough to take on...
 - Adult privileges AND adult responsibilities.

WE CAN THINK ABOUT IT LIKE THIS:

- There's birthdays that carry a rite of passage...
 - At 16 you can drive
 - At 18 you're an adult
 - At 21 you lose your mind
 - At 25 you regain your mind and can rent a car

POINT IS:

- Growth brings new privileges & new responsibilities.

(Luke 12:48-b) = The testing of a servant.

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*Those who have received many blessings, whether material, intellectual, or spiritual, have a greater responsibility to use those gifts for [God]... From those who have been entrusted with much, even more will be expected.*¹

IDEA #2 – DON'T STIFLE YOUR GROWTH

WE'RE GOING TO MOVE...

- Into some practical application for a moment.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE WE UNDERSTAND...

- How a pastor is to lead God's church.
 - (Titus 2:11-15) NLT

THERE'S DANGERS...

- That collide with spiritual progress...
 - And Satan loves to take advantage of weak believers.

(1 Cor. 3:1-3) NLT

(Col. 3:1-10) NLT

AS A SPIRITUAL LEADER...

- Paul confronted the church head-on...
 - About attitudes & behaviors...
 - That have no place among God's people.

THERE'S A LOT TO LEARN HERE.

(vv.15-17) NLT

IDEA #3 – GROANING IS NORMAL

(Rom. 8:17)...

- The believers inheritance...
 - Is directly linked to suffering with Christ in this world.

THEN PAUL LAY'S OUT...

¹ AI search for principal behind (Luke 12:48) conducted on 06/07/25.

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- Three camps of suffering:
 - 1) (v.22) Creation groans for God to restore all things
 - 2) (v.23) The Christian groans for the final step of salvation = Glorification.
 - 3) (v.26) The Holy Spirit groans

~ IN CLOSING ~

JUST UNDERSTAND...

- a) We're to follow God & allow Him to control our lives.
- b) Carnal behavior wrecks spiritual growth.
- c) Hardships are part of the Christian life.