

1. ROMANS 8:6 - EXPLAINED

“The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace”

A choice between life, peace and death. Who would not choose life and peace? But this choice can only be made by the Spiritually minded. The sinful man has a natural aversion (dislike) to everything good. Our studies in John Owen’s book “Indwelling sin in Believers” gave us a good foundational understanding of the condition of the heart of unbelievers.

These are not simple matters, as we may often be aware of the influence in our hearts of both Spiritual mindedness and earthly mindedness at the same time. We as Christians are aware of these influences constantly in our lives. Those who are controlled by earthly mindedness, cannot please God.

How can we tell what sort of mind we have? And how are we to be sure that we do not deceive ourselves, thinking that we are Spiritually minded, but in fact having little or no regard for the things of God. The word Spirit in scripture can either mean the Holy Spirit **ROM 8-9**, or the new Spiritual life produced in believers by the Holy Spirit **JN 3:6**. We understand that what Paul is talking about here is “the activity of this new Spiritual life in the believer”.

Having this new Spiritual mindedness causes us, the believer, to think about and delight in Spiritual things, which was never our habit before conversion. Unbelievers can only delight in things of the world, but our priority should be loving the things of God.

To be Spiritually minded, we need to have a mind always actively directing our thoughts to Spiritual things, a mind growing in love for Spiritual things, and a real satisfaction by the believer which is produced by Spiritual things. The chief distinguishing mark of the believer is this Spiritual mindedness, that sets him apart from the unbeliever, and it alone leads to a life of peace.

So, to be earthly minded, we would find ourselves to be dominated by earthly and secular concerns. We would not have the desire to be entertained by heavenly thoughts or concerns. There would be no love for Spiritual things.

When Christians are waylaid by constant concerns of earthly issues, they find themselves in unhealthy company and their Spiritually life becomes unhealthy. There are those who know about Spiritual things but cannot bring themselves to think about them. There is an aversion to Spiritual things. Although they may think of themselves as believers or try to give the impression that they are believers, there is in fact no real evidence to convince either themselves, or anybody else that they are true believers.

The pretenders cannot experience God's peace. This peace is reserved for God's people alone.

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