

Topic: Made Different by Gilbert Lok

Text: Romans 8:1-23

The Spirit of the Risen Lord Jesus makes life different in 3 areas:

1. Our whole person will be made different, both soul and body .
 2. All creation will be made different
 3. Our scars, our suffering will be made different
- Differentiate the sinful nature vs the physical body
 - We will have physical bodies in God's new creation, but these will be transformed and renewed.
 - Mission and evangelism is not just about saving souls , but extending, in the power of the Spirit, God's new life into every dimension of human-ness – physical, emotional, relational, spiritual .
 - We serve others' physical needs not just out of compassion, but also because the body matters to God.

 - God does not reject creation , but redeems and transforms it.
 - We are not just consumers of God's gifts in nature, but stewards and co-managers, co-heirs with Christ

 - Image of Jesus in the Resurrection
 - Christ's wounds remain part of his resurrected body , for all eternity.
 - We follow Christ's example by dying little deaths each day
 - Die to: our self-centered desires , false narratives of the world and to our sinful rebellious nature .
 - How do we help each other die daily , so that together we will live in the Spirit ?

Comments? Feedback? Questions on the sermon or discussion items?

<http://tinyurl.com/AMC28Aug2016>

Discussion Questions

Don't feel obliged to cover all the items. Cell Group Leader should prayerfully select the ones most appropriate and relevant for the place that your group is at:

1. Prayer: Acknowledge that the Spirit of the Risen Lord is in your midst as you gather as a cell group. Call to mind the grace you have received the past week, and be grateful.

2. Scripture study: a key theme in this passage is the indwelling Spirit. From this passage and the rest of Romans chapter 8, what are the indicators and the impact of the indwelling Spirit?

3. Scripture study: [v13] For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
 - a. Refresh: What is the distinction between flesh (sarx; generally sinful nature) vs body (soma; physical body).
 - b. Why does Paul say "put to death the deeds of the body", not deeds of the flesh?

4. Reflection: Over this past week, in what way have you lived or been tempted to live according to the flesh, that is, the by self-seeking and sinful human nature?
 - a. You should share the answer with your discussion group only if you feel comfortable doing so. But regardless, you should certainly share your answer with God in your own prayer time.

5. Scripture study: Read Isa 65-66 and Rev 21. What do passages tell us about the new heavens and the new earth?

6. Reflection: What does it mean for you that the new creation is *physical*? How does this fact change your mental image about the new creation?

7. Discussion: Do you know of people who think that heaven is boring? How would you respond?
 - a. OR maybe the topic of heaven just doesn't come up in conversation. This would then make a good topic starter: "Eh, do you think heaven is boring?"

8. Discussion: Have you recently come across any physical needs which need servicing? Would your group consider responding together?

9. Discussion: What does being co-heirs of creation imply? What dimensions or aspects of physical creation could you and your group help better steward?

10. Discussion: What practical steps can you take among your group to help each other die daily, through the Spirit? To die to our own self-centred desires, die to the false narratives of the world, die to the sinful rebellious nature?