

**Big Idea:** The Holy Spirit Empowers us to be the Men God Designed us to Be.

**A. A New *Master* (v.12–13)**

- “Obligated” is language of *ownership* and slavery.

For you know that you were *redeemed* from your empty way of life inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but *with the precious blood of Christ*. — 1 Peter 1:18–19a (cf. Acts 20:28; Galatians 3:13; Ephesians 1:7)

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do. — Romans 8:12 NLT

- We *wrestle* with the flesh, but we are not *mastered* by the flesh.
- It doesn't always *feel* this way, but it *is* this way.
- How do we “put to death the deeds of the body?” (cf. refer to last week) **(Weed Killing)**
  1. Pluck the *Root* — address the *source*, not just the *symptoms*.
    - Consider: Am I looking for *comfort* in this?
    - Consider: Am I trying to be in *control* of this?
    - Consider: Am I looking for *significance* from this?
  2. Make *War*, not *Peace* with your sin.
    - Don't make *excuses* for your sin (i.e. “Everyone else does it” / “But they're a Democrat / Republican!”)
    - Sin will *eclipse* **SOLAR Eclipse** the presence and power of God in your life **(Keller story)**
    - “Be killing sin or sin will be killing you.” — John Owen
  3. *Stick* With It — **(Black Belt=White Belt who didn't give up)**
  4. Get Some *Help* (v.12—“brothers and sisters” / **“Never fight Alone!”**)

**B. A New *Status* (v.14–16)**

- “Led by the Spirit” = not about guidance, but about *power*

Therefore, my dear friends...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. **13** For it is *God who is working in you* both to *will* and to *work* according to his good purpose. — Philippians 2:12–13

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, *be filled with the Holy Spirit*. — Ephesians 5:15 NLT

- “*Abba, Father!*” (cf. Galatians 4:6)

He said to them, “*I am deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake.*” **35** He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** And he said, “*Abba, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will.*” — Mark 14:34–36

- Application Question: How's your Prayer Life? (“**Don't Talk to Strangers**”)

- Do you talk to God like a *stranger*, or like a Father?
- Do you realize how much the Father loves you? (Ephesians 3:14–21)

- Live like a *son* of God, not like a *slave* to sin

In the first century A.D. an adopted son was a son deliberately chosen by his adoptive father to perpetuate his name and inherit his estate; he was no whit inferior in status to a son born in the ordinary course of nature and might well enjoy the father's affection more fully and reproduce the father's character more worthily. — F.F. Bruce (*Romans*, 166)

- Stop *questioning* your *identity* and start *living in it*.
- Stop *pursuing* an identity and starting *embracing* the one you already have.

**C. A New *Inheritance* (v.17 cf. John 17:24–27; Ephesians 1:13–21; 1 John 3:2)**

- Best Life Now vs. Best Life *Later*
- A *Hope* that Invades the Darkness (**Prison Analogy**)

## A. The Sovereignty of God in Appointing Leaders

May the name of God be praised forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to him. He changes the times and seasons; **he removes kings and establishes kings**. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.  
— Daniel 2:21

This word is by decree of the watchers, and the decision is by command from the holy ones. This is so that the living will know that **the Most High is ruler over human kingdoms. He gives them to anyone he wants** and sets the lowliest of people over them. — Daniel 4:17

The Lord frustrates the counsel of the nations; he thwarts the plans of the peoples. **The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart from generation to generation.** — Psalm 33:10–11

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; **he turns it wherever he will** — Proverbs. 21:1

Let everyone submit to the governing authorities, since **there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are instituted by God.** — Romans 13:1ff

## B. Honoring our Leaders

Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to **the emperor** as the supreme authority **14** or to governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good. **15 For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good.** **16** Submit as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God's slaves. **17 Honor everyone.** Love the brothers and sisters. Fear God. **Honor the emperor.** — 1 Peter 2:13–17

## C. Praying for Our Leaders

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for **everyone, 2 for kings and all those who are in authority**, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. **3** This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants **everyone** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.  
— 1 Timothy 2:1–4