

Romans 8:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Analysis

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin (ei de Christos en humin, to sōma nekron dia hamartian)—Paul shifts from Spirit in you (v. 9) to Christ in you, again demonstrating Trinitarian unity. "The body is dead" doesn't mean physical death but mortality—nekron indicates the body's death-bound condition. Dia hamartian ("because of sin") points to Genesis 3: Adam's sin brought death's sentence. Even redeemed believers experience physical decay; salvation has not yet reversed mortality.

But the Spirit is life because of righteousness (to pneuma zōē dia dikaiosunēn)—The contrast is striking: body death-bound, Spirit life-giving. The Spirit imparts zōē (eternal life quality) dia dikaiosunēn ("because of righteousness")—likely Christ's imputed righteousness (3:21-26) which satisfies justice and secures life. Though the body awaits resurrection (v. 11), the Spirit's presence is present-tense life, the "already" of salvation before the "not yet" of glorification (v. 23).

Historical Context

Gnostic movements in the early centuries despised the body as evil, teaching that salvation meant escape from physical existence. Paul affirms bodily resurrection (v. 11, 23), not escape from embodiment. The tension between present spiritual life and future bodily redemption shapes Christian eschatology—we live between resurrection and return.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How should Christians think about physical mortality and decay in light of spiritual life?
2. What's the relationship between Christ's righteousness and the Spirit's life-giving presence?
3. How does this verse provide comfort when facing aging, illness, or death?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	δὲ	Χριστὸς	ἐν	ὑμῖν	τὸ	μὲν	σῶμα	νεκρὸν	διὰ
if	And	Christ	be in	you	G3588	G3303	the body	is dead	because
G1487	G1161	G5547	G1722	G5213			G4983	G3498	G1223
ἁμαρτίαν	τὸ	δὲ	πνεῦμα	ζωή	διὰ	δικαιοσύνην			
of sin	G3588	And	the Spirit	is life	because	of righteousness			
G266		G1161	G4151	G2222	G1223	G1343			

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 3:17 (References Christ): That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Galatians 2:20 (References Christ): I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

John 17:23 (Parallel theme): I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Colossians 1:27 (References Christ): To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Righteousness): For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Romans 8:11 (Spirit): But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Philippians 1:23 (References Christ): For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

Revelation 14:13 (Spirit): And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

1 Corinthians 15:45 (Spirit): And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Hebrews 9:27 (Parallel theme): And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: