

Romans 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Analysis

For to be carnally minded is death (to phronēma tēs sarkos thanatos)—Phronēma denotes not just individual thoughts but the mind-set, the comprehensive disposition. The present tense "is" indicates death not just as future consequence but present reality—spiritual deadness, separation from God who is life (Ephesians 2:1). The carnal mind is death because it is fundamentally opposed to the life-giving God.

But to be spiritually minded is life and peace (to phronēma tou pneumatōs zōē kai eirēnē)—The Spirit's mind-set brings zōē (eternal life quality beginning now, John 17:3) and eirēnē (peace, the shalom of reconciliation with God, 5:1). This parallels Galatians 6:8: "he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Paul presents two paths with two destinies—no middle ground exists.

Historical Context

The Greek philosophical tradition (especially Platonism) emphasized escape from the body as the path to enlightenment. Paul's use of "flesh" is not anti-physical but anti-rebellious—the issue is sin's dominion, not embodiment. The resurrection hope (8:11, 23) demonstrates that redemption includes the body, not escape from it.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does spiritual "death" manifest in daily life before physical death occurs?
2. What is the connection between a Spirit-directed mind and the experience of peace?
3. How can you cultivate the "mind of the Spirit" in a culture saturated with fleshly appeals?

Interlinear Text

τὸ	γὰρ	φρόνημα	τῆς	σαρκὸς	θάνατος	τὸ	δὲ	φρόνημα
G3588	For	mindful	G3588	carnally	is death	G3588	but	mindful
	G1063	G5427		G4561	G2288		G1161	G5427

τοῦ	πνεύματος	ζωῆ	καὶ	εἰρήνης·
G3588	spiritually	is life	and	peace
	G4151	G2222	G2532	G1515

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 6:8 (Spirit): For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Romans 8:7 (Parallel theme): Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Romans 8:13 (Spirit): For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Romans 13:14 (Parallel theme): But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Romans 6:23 (Parallel theme): For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Galatians 5:22 (Spirit): But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

John 14:27 (Peace): Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Romans 6:21 (Parallel theme): What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

Romans 7:5 (Parallel theme): For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

John 14:6 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.