THE FLESHLY MIND AND THE SPIRITUAL MIND
Romans 8:5-9

Introduction: 1) The importance of this passage, eternal happiness or eternal misery 2) It is vital that we know which of these states we are in, especially since the Bible teaches that many religious people are deceived about their spiritual state. 3) This message is one of the important dots to connect with in next week’s message about walking by the Spirit.

Question: What distinguishes the spiritual mind from the fleshly mind?

I. The mind naturally thinks about what will bring satisfaction to the heart. With this in mind, the spiritually minded have a conviction that only Christ can satisfy the desires of their heart. - John 7:27; 6:35; 4:10-13; Psalms 73:25,26; 1 Peter 1:8,9

II. This conviction stirs the mind to hunger and thirst for fellowship with God - Psalms 16:11; Romans 8:14-16 (infants want to be near their parents, Justin saw last week)

III. This hunger and thirst for fellowship with God leads them to have a delight in anything that will draw them close to Christ (Bible reading, prayer, meditating about Christ, music, Bible studies and public preaching)

IV. They do not see these things as duties or chores but as enjoyable activities that bring real joy, peace, and satisfaction. Communion with God is no chore. In fact the indication one has a spiritual mind is how refreshed they feel after drawing near to God. - Jeremiah 31:25,26

V. When these things seem like duties or chores it has two possible reasons. One, is that the person may be religious but deceived about whether they are a truly born again person. The other is that they are
a born again person who is living through legalism. (you need to think about this very carefully, Matthew 7)

1. Legalism sees spiritual things as chores or duties. We are free from the law Scripture says, which means we don’t obey anymore because it is our duty but because we enjoying doing so - 1 John 5:3,4 (legalism tries to produce obedience through fear while living in the Spirit produces obedience through enjoyment)

2. When we reduce spiritual activities to things we ought to do, duties, or chores this causes the desires of the flesh to increase (enmity with God) and then we either force ourselves to do it or we leave it off altogether because we just don’t get any enjoyment out of those activities. This person needs to learn how to walk in the Spirit. (inversion of desire’s)

VI. Characteristics of the fleshly minded

1. They are hostile or apathetic about God - 1 Corinthians 2:14 and Romans 8:7,8

2. They view fellowship with God as duties or chores because they have no love or delight in them. This is because they believe that it is worldly concerns that will really satisfy their hearts not the presence of Christ. (if one doesn’t enjoy being in God’s presence now what will be the case when they are in the presence of Christ forever)

3. Some outside force is usually required before they think about spiritual things (circumstances, health, preaching, when those outside forces are gone so are their spiritual interests)

4. When a fleshly minded person is religious they often agree with spiritual truths but that is as far as it gets (change is considered)

Conclusion: 1) By now there might be a good number of people who are concerned about whether they are spiritually minded or fleshly minded? I do believe America is full of deceived Church people but to encourage some of you, consider this. The deceived are always asleep, a sermon like this would never raise their concerns. If your spirit has been grown concerned and wondering where I am with the Lord that is a sign that the Holy Spirit is stirring you up and calling you to learn how to walk in the Spirit. He alone is the one who can stir the
spiritual mind to enjoy the fellowship of Christ, Philippians 2:13. Like the Galatians you need to learn to walk by the Spirit and this God willing we will cover next Sunday in more detail 2) I rarely ever call for an altar call but perhaps today is a day you might want to come and just talk to the Lord, sometimes doing this can stir your soul, the Lord loves seeing his people seeking a closer walk with him, it can greatly move and encourage other Christians. If the Lord is speaking to you about this by all means come as we sing and once you are finished just return quietly to where you were.