



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: Risen with Christ: Our Obligation**

**Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor**

**Scripture: Romans 8:9-13**

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

*Romans 8:9-13 (NIV)*

### **Sermon Outline:**

Over the past weeks in our series on Romans, one of the areas we have explored has to do with no condemnation. No condemnation means you know what the verdict on you is going to be; you don't have to live in fear or uncertainty and God has made up His mind about you. Next, we explored the fact that Christ died not only that the law would be filled for us but that the law could be fulfilled in us. It is only by the power of Holy Spirit that we are able to fulfill the requirement of the law, which is love through the Holy Spirit.

As we continue our series in Romans, today's scripture focuses on obligation. The salvation story of the Bible is that our bodies will be given life by the Spirit. In v.11, Paul tells us that the Holy Spirit will give life to our mortal bodies. He goes on to say that we have an obligation. Jesus didn't just come to save our souls he came to save every part of who we are. Although your body might feel limited and feeble, but God is going to give you a glorified body and raise you up like never before. The Christian faith is good news for our physical bodies.

Our obligation comes out of our gratitude to God. Paul is telling us to look at all that Jesus Christ has done for us - his love, grace and mercy. Therefore, you have an obligation. Paul is holding together two words that are all too often separated: acceptance and obedience. We tend to emphasize one word over the other, but Paul says we are to hold both these words together.

Below are some of the ways that these two words relate to each other:

- Jesus-fan (Cheap grace): high acceptance but low obedience.
- Functional-Atheist (Irrelevance of God): low acceptance and low obedience.
- Legalist (Fear-based performance): high obedience but low acceptance
- Disciple (Costly love): high obedience and high acceptance

How are we to live as a disciple?

- One mental shift: God's grace is not opposed to effort but to earning. (Dallas Willard)
- One practice: The best kind of obligation flows out of practice of gratitude.

When you recognize how much you have received, you want to live in a way that pleases God. If you make the decision to be stingy this week, remember God's generosity toward you. Should you begin to gossip about someone this week, remember God who speaks words of love over you. If you decide to be dishonest or tell a lie this week, remember God who is truth that you might be honest. Grace and works are on the same side. It is because we have received so much from God, that we have an obligation to God and not to ourselves.

### **Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor continues in our sermon series Risen with Christ through the Book of Romans. Today Pastor Rich explores Our Obligation where he will examine the critical connection between acceptance and obedience which is core to the gospel in our lives.

**Sermon Questions:**

1. How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? What words resonate with you? Why?
2. In your family of origin, were you raised to believe that you needed to be obedient to be accepted? Did you believe that obedience was something that you needed to practice in all areas of your life – with your family, friends, and co-workers? How does what you experienced growing up shape who you are today and how you view the concept of obedience? How do you feel about obedience as it relates to your relationship with God?
3. Which of the four quadrants listed above (Jesus-Fan, Functional-Atheist, Legalist, Disciple) do you see yourself in? Many of us may find ourselves moving from one quadrant to the next, especially during difficult or challenging times. Find time this week to journal about these four quadrants, noticing where you are right now and how you might be able to move closer to the disciple quadrant.
4. How are we to live as a disciple? Set aside time this week to meditate on the fact that God's grace is not opposed to effort but to earning. Also, remember that the best kind of obligation flows out of a practice of gratitude. We are to show God gratitude because we have received God's love and mercy in abundance.