

## **Spiritual Debt**

**Romans 8:12-17 – Pastor Roger Freeman // April 29-30, 2017**

### **Open Up**

*Has anyone every surprisingly paid your bill at dinner? Have you ever done that for someone? Why do we like these kind debt-pay-off stories?*

***If I'm going to handle my spiritual debt, I must...***

#### **1. Establish its Reality (Romans 8:12-13)**

***"We owe God everything! We owe nothing to ourselves and nothing is owed to us"***

- *How do you keep the feeling of being indebted to God from being ambiguous? In what way is this personally understood? What do you owe him specifically?*
- *How do you rejoice over the fact that you are indebted to God? (How does someone move from indebted to rejoicing? (Romans 8:1-3)*

#### **2. Engage my Responsibility (Romans 8:14-17a)**

***"The flesh enslaves, the Spirit invites"***

*Thinking that you are owed something for your good works is one way people use to justify choices that are hostile to the spirit of God now living in them.*

- *What should you do if you struggle with this kind of self-justification? (Examples to consider: Pursuing a romance with an unbeliever, flirting with a martial affair, seeking extra cash through under the table deals, fudging your taxes, cheating on a exam to guarantee a qualification you've worked hard to achieve, saving money by consuming boot-legged media?)*
- *How does the Spirit invite people away from some of the above activities?*

#### **3. Embrace the Redeemer (Romans 8:17b)**

***The Spirit allows us to see to God as good father who wants to do more than cancel our debt. He desires to makes us rich in Christ.***

- *How can focusing on your adoption into Christ's family help you overcome fear related to suffering or the fear of consequences related to sinful choices?*

***Break Out!***

*Are you enslaved by any old desires? What step is the Spirit calling you to do next to begin living in more freedom and less bondage to sin?*

