

Romans 8:6-11^{iv}

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

^{iv} About the Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

In today's reading, Paul contrasts life in the flesh with life in the Spirit. Paul uses the "Spirit of God" (v. 9), the "Spirit of Christ" (v. 9) and "Christ in you" (v. 10) interchangeably. He emphasizes that the source of the Spirit is God, the full manifestation of the Spirit is in Christ, and that Christians experience the Spirit communally in the Body of Christ, the Church.

The indwelling of Christ does not, however, exempt Christians from physical death, for their bodies are still mortal, subject to death. But it does endue the Christian with a new quality of life that will triumph over death. The resurrection of Christ marked the beginning of the age to come. At the culmination of that age, death itself will be destroyed. Until then, through the Spirit, God brings that future into the present and Christians begin to live in their new life.