

GALATIANS 5:17-21

Paul, in verse 16, says that instead of arguing and wrangling among themselves, he challenged them to walk in the Spirit's strength.

*That takes a **daily** personal relationship with Christ. It has the idea of being **occupied** with Him. If one does, he can have control **over** his flesh's evil desires.

A. Galatians 5:17 - For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

1. We have a real conflict within. Our old nature and our flesh with the sin principle are **unbelievably strong**. They have thirsty desires that are overwhelming at times with passions and drawing. This in turn opposes, **suppresses** the Spirit from working in our lives.
 - a. But thankfully God, the indwelling Holy Spirit within the believer, is greater than our flesh and even the devil. The Spirit fights and **opposes** our flesh's sinful desires.
 - b. The two opponents **clash** and **fight**. The flesh cries out with its evil desires, but the Spirit gives us power to say **no**. However, when the Spirit moves in us to be faithful to the Word, immediately our flesh moves to create a desire where sin looks really good.

* | It is a **constant** battle and **crosspull** that goes on. The purpose of each one (flesh-Spirit) is to
* | **prevent** the believer from obeying the suggestings of the **other**.

- c. Thus, it is the believer's "**choice**" of which one they yield to. That choice will be decided by how **close** the believer's relationship to the Lord is that day.

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

I John 4:4 - Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Romans 8:1-4 - *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. Rom. 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. Rom. 8:3 - For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: Rom. 8:4 - That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2. Just remember that these two natures cannot agree on anything. Our **new** nature has a whole new set of **godly** God-honoring values. The **old** nature, whose leader is Satan, the god of this world, is bent to **unbelief** and **rebellion**.

- a. **Note:** Our new position in Christ has been declared, and our old nature has been declared **dead**.

* | However, in our daily experience - **living**, we have to **by faith reckon** the old nature dead, as
* | **God** says it is!

- b. The new nature we have never sins. So if we do sin (or when we sin), that is telling us the old, Adam's nature, has taken control for a **moment**, because it is only through our flesh's old nature, that we would sin.

(1) *But as far as God is concerned, our old Adam's nature is dead. That is why He can declare us justified, because the old Adam - sin is dead and **gone**.

(2) But again, in our everyday experience - **practice**, we know the old Adam is still there and we constantly fight to keep him suppressed. Thank God that we have the Holy Spirit's indwelling in us to assist. His strength gives us the **ability** to say **no** to the flesh and **yes** to God's ways. We are more than conquerors, and we can make the body obedient.

- c. Also remember, there is a difference in our **position** - state (eternally secured in Christ) and our daily **practice** (decided by who we decide to yield to).

Ephesians 4:1 - I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Romans 6:6, 10-14 - Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. Rom. 6:10 - For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Rom. 6:11 - Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom. 6:12 - Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Rom. 6:13 - Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God. Rom. 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

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

B. Galatians 5:18 - But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

1. First of all, this means one is **saved**!

Romans 8:9, 14 - But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Rom. 8:14 - For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

2. This also means that the Holy Spirit **does** lead and guide us. The Holy Spirit is the author of scriptures. So when He does impress our mind or spirit, it is always toward Christ and the Word (godly decision).

Note: It is obvious that during this present age of grace, it is truly a dispensation, administration, and economy in which the Holy Spirit is the chief **mover** in our lives. He moves and works in believers (world) to fulfill the Word of God. All good changes and adjustments that take place in the life of the believer are dependent upon **Him**.

3. Believers are **led**, **guided**, **directed** and energized by the Holy Spirit today. Here Paul tells the Galatians, if saved, they now have an **internal** guidance mechanism. They now do not need the law telling them what to do with every last detail of life.

*Remember, this does not mean we are to be lawless or sinful. It simply means we obey God's truths from a heart of **love** for Him, and not because a heavy-handed forcing law is over us.

* | Holiness, godly living is something **produced** from within by the Holy Spirit and not by mere
* | observance of a set of rules.

C. Galatians 5:19 - Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

*If one is not **led** by the Spirit, then he will be controlled by his old Adam. His flesh's works become expressed in his body and made public..they cannot be **hidden**.

Sexual Sins

1. [Adultery] This is being unfaithful to one's mate. It is an **extra**-marital affair. Example: David and Bathsheba.

Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage *is* honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

2. [fornication] This is from the Greek word porneia meaning pornography, **prostitution**. It is also sexual activity before or not married. *Today, society scoff's at purity and we are reaping the **con**sequences.

- a. Fornication also takes in sin and **in**cest:

I Corinthians 5:1 - It is reported commonly *that there is fornication among you*, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife.

- b. Fornication also takes in **homo**sexuality:

Jude 7 - Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.

3. [uncleanness] This is a **filth**iness of one's mind and heart. It is having defiling, suggestive thoughts or **per**verted fantasies. It can take in homosexuality.

Romans 1:24, 27 - Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Rom. 1:27 - And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

4. [lasciviousness] This is lawless insolence, **un**restrained evil, that has no restraint or **sha**me regardless of public opinion.

*It is a total abandonment of **any** standard of morality - anything goes. It is shamelessness and predators of children.

Religious Sins

- D. Galatians 5:20 - Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

1. [idolatry] This has the idea of worshipping **im**ages. It can also be anything that takes **pri**ority over God in one's life.

*Today it is materialism and covetousness.

Colossians 3:5 - Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

2. [witchcraft] The Greek word pharmacia is where we get our word pharmacy. This refers to **drugs**. They were used as potions or witches brew. *All this goes together with sorcery, magical arts, spiritism, occult and witchcraft!

Attitude Sins

E. Galatians 5:20b - 21 - hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Gal. 5:21 - Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

1. [hatred] This is animosity, hatred of certain people, having **hostility** and even wishing them dead. They are the enemy.
I John 3:14-15 - We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. I John 3:15 - Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.
2. [variance] This means having rivalry, discord, a **quarreler**, always contentious, causing strife and contention.

*If one hurts them, they are always carrying a chip on their shoulder. They just will not leave something alone.
3. [emulations] This has the idea of deep **jealousy** or ill-will. They have **resentment** toward someone because of the position they hold or blessings they have gotten (new car, house, job, etc.)
4. [wrath] It is having white hot anger, **explosive**, rage and temper. It is an **uncontrolled** emotional outburst.
5. [strife] This is one who causes **disunity** and confusion with self-seeking ambition. They stimulate faction. They are angry and want to get people on their side.

*They do not feel so bad if they can get others to join in about an issue.
6. [seditions] This is where one's behavior and language encourages, incites rebellion against authority, that causes **division** and **disintegration**. *This was happening in the Galatians church.

Romans 16:17 - Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.