

Series "No Other Gospel"
"The Spirit Versus The Flesh"
Galatians 5:16-21
Part-13

Galatians 5-6 – Gospel of Grace Applied: (Practical)

Just as justification is impossible through the efforts of self, so sanctification cannot happen in our own energy, but only by the Holy Spirit.

Sanctify – "to set apart"

Galatians 5:1

The Thought Of The Passage: "Victory Over The Flesh Is Not Accomplished Through Our Will, But Surrendering Our Will To The Holy Spirit."

- 1. Verses 16-17 – The Conflict**
- 2. Verse 18 – The Conquest**
- 3. Verses 19-21 – The Corruption**

1. Verses 16-17 – The Conflict:

Galatians 5:16 – "But I say," – Paul just finished speaking about a "Call To Freedom," Galatians 5:13-15; Galatians 5:15.

Command: "walk by the Spirit," – when Paul says "walk" – "habitual lifestyle, the manner of our lives."

"walk" – Notice it is not running! Walking is slower; it takes time and persistence.

"by the Spirit," – Paul is saying that If the Holy Spirit controls the body, then we walk in the Spirit; but if the flesh controls the body, then we walk in the lusts (desires) of the flesh.

Results Of Walking By The Spirit: "and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." – We are not speaking of the physical body. "The old sinful nature that we are born with, it is bent towards doing man's will."

Colossians 2:23

The Christian has 2 natures: One is the old which he was born with and the new that He has received by God. He lives in 2 different worlds!

The Spirit – A new nature through a new birth through the Spirit.

The Flesh – What we are by natural birth.

When we are walking by the Spirit, we will not be practicing the sinful actions of our old nature.

Galatians 5:17

“For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit,” – Romans 8:9.

“and the Spirit against the flesh;” – The Christian that is walking with God has the Holy Spirit leading them towards the spiritual.

Note – The Christian Cannot Simply Will To Overcome The Flesh:
Galatians 5:17 WMS – “These two are opposed to each other, so that you cannot do anything you please.”

It is this very problem that Paul discusses in Romans 7:15-19.

Romans 7:20-25

2. Verse 18 – The Conquest:

Galatians 5:18

The solution is not to pit our will against the flesh, but to surrender our will to the Holy Spirit.

This verse literally means, “But if you are willingly led by the Spirit, then you are not under the Law.”

“you are not under the Law.” – We are not under a set of rules.

The Holy Spirit Writes God’s Law On Our Hearts: Hebrews 10:14-17.

We Desire To Obey Him In Love: NLT Psalm 40:8.

3. Verses 19-21 – The Corruption:

Galatians 5:19 – “Now the deeds of the flesh are evident,” – They are obvious to all.

“which are:” – Paul now lists some of the ugly “works of the flesh.” You will find similar lists in Mark 7:20-23; Romans 1:29-32; 1 Timothy 1:9-10; 2 Timothy 3:2-5; Jeremiah 17:9.

Verse 19 – The Sexual Sins: “immorality” – or normally translated fornication – “illicit sex between unmarried people.” While adultery generally refers to the same sin among married people. We are speaking about premarital and extra-marital sex.

Hebrews 13:4

“impurity” – Uncleaness means just that: a filthiness of heart and mind that makes the person defiled. The unclean person sees dirt in everything, Titus 1:15.

“sensuality” – or Lasciviousness; is close to our word “debauchery.” It speaks of a wanton appetite that knows no shame – Homosexuality and Lesbianism.

Verse 20 – Religious Sins: Galatians 5:20.

“idolatry” – “putting things ahead of God and people.”

“sorcery” – or witchcraft; is from the Greek word “pharmakeia,” which means “the use of drugs.” Our English word “pharmacy” is derived from this word.

Verses 20-21 – Attitude Sins: “enmities” – or hatred; means “enmity,” the attitude of mind that defies and challenges others.

“strife” – This attitude of enmities leads to variance, which is strife, the outworking of enmity.

“jealousy” – or emulations; means jealousies or rivalries.

“outbursts of anger” – Temper tantrums; “anger in a sinful way which is blowing up.”

“disputes” – strife carries with it the idea of “self-seeking, selfish ambition,” that creates divisions in the church.

“dissensions” – suggests division. “To separate, to split into two.”

“factions” – or heresy; Greek word means “to make a choice;” cliques caused by a party spirit.

Galatians 5:21

“envying” – Envy suggests the carrying of grudges, the deep desire for what another has.

Proverbs 14:30

Verse 21 – Social Sins: “drunkenness” – Is clearly a sin. It is not a disease. Ephesians 5:18

“carousing” – Literally, “Letting loose or rioting.”

“will not inherit the kingdom of God.” – There is a false assurance of salvation that is not based on the Word of God.

The old nature must be crucified, Galatians 5:24.

Paul explains that the believer is identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, Romans 6. Christ not only died for me, but I died with Christ. Christ died for me to remove the penalty of my sin, but I died with Christ to break sin’s power.

Galatians 2:19-20

Paul calls this “reckoning” or “consider” in Romans 6:11.

Application:

1. The Only Way That A Christian Can Live In Two Different Worlds And Remain Holy And Grow In Holiness Is Through The Holy Spirit.
2. Victory Over The Flesh Is Not Through Our Will, But Surrendering Our Will To The Holy Spirit.