

The Spirit and the Flesh - Part II Gal. 5:19-21

Galatians 5:16–23 (ESV)

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- 1. God's Command ... *Walk in the Spirit*...** this is an imperative command... not an option... Walking in the flesh is unacceptable to God and it is a sin and to be in the flesh is to be unable to please God.
- 2. Our Conflict...** For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit. These two forces within a believer are in conflict. Our flesh desires its way. The Spirit longs for God's way.
We learn to defeat one and live for the other or we live defeated...
- 3. Our Choice...** Walk by the Spirit or gratify the flesh.
We should choose to follow the leadership of God and His word.

Verse 19-26 point out two other truths...

4. The Contrast of the Spirit and Flesh v. 19-23

A. The Works of the Flesh v. 19-20

- a. Sexual Sins**
- b. Superstitious Sins**
- c. Social Sins**

B. God's Judgment on the Works of the Flesh v. 21

Questions for Application:

1. Do you notice the contrast that Paul uses in choosing works to describe the flesh and fruit to describe the Spirit? How does these affect how you see these characteristics?
2. In this list of sins which category gets more of a pass and downplayed as not as serious? Why?
3. How should the reality of God's judgment upon these affect us in our life?