

Our Doctrines The Responsibility of Believers

A. To Walk By The Spirit (Gal 5.16-26)

1. The Spirit or the Flesh (vs 16-17)

The Spirit and the Flesh are Contrary.

*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.*

Rom 8.7

To be in the Flesh is very much like being **Carnal** which means **Worldly**.

*Romans 8:7 - **Because the carnal mind is enmity against God:** for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

James 4.4

*James 4:4 - Ye adulterers and adulteresses, **know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?** whosoever therefore **will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.***

Notice that the **“Flesh Luseth against the Spirit.”** The Spiritual life and walk that God seeks to grow and mature in you is despised and warred against by your old sinful flesh. Christians often wrestle and struggle with their new Spiritual life and their old Fleshy Sinful self.

When you submit or surrender to your Flesh you,

*Galatians 5:17 - **... cannot do the things that ye would.***

Learning to live or walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh is a matter of Spiritual Growth or Spiritual Maturity.

How does one grow spiritually?

1 Peter 2:2 - As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Get into and deeply desire the Word of God by,

- Reading Word of God

- Studying the Word of God
- Memorizing the Word of God
- Getting under the Preaching of the Word of God
- Loving the Word of God

Always remember that your flesh is contrary to the Spirit of God which is in you. Your flesh will seek to keep you from doing what God would have you to do.

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- A. To Walk By The Spirit**
1. The Spirit of the Flesh

2. The Works Of The Flesh (vs 19-21)

Galatians 5:19–21 - Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envyings, 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.

All These Works of the Flesh are common in our worldly culture.

We should expect to see the manifestation of these sinful life choices in lost sinful people. We cannot expect lost people to live a spirit filled godly life. A lost person is not asked to conquer these works of the flesh before they get saved, **instead they are told to get saved and then allow the Lord Jesus Christ to take these works of the flesh out of their life. For this reason the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ is to be,**

- **A Hospital for sinners**
- **Rather than a Hospice for the saints.**

We get really confused when a person claims to be a born again Christian and their life is marked by these sins.

Born Again Christian you need to understand that these sinful manifestations of the flesh should not mark your Christian Walk. **You are NOT a spiritual Christian, nor a godly Christian if these things mark your life.**

3. The Fruit of the Spirit (vs 22-23)

Galatians 5:22–23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,** ²³**Meekness, temperance:** against such there is no law.

These Fruit of the Spirit, not plural, are those things that ought to be manifested in the Born Again Christian

When you grow Spiritually these will become more and more evident in how you live your life.

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A. To Walk By The Spirit

1. The Spirit of the Flesh
2. The Works of the Flesh
3. The Fruit of the Spirit

B. How To Mature From The Flesh Into The Spirit (vs 18, 24)

1. Crucify Your Flesh (vs 24)

Galatians 5:24 - And they that are Christ's **have crucified the flesh** with the affections and lusts.

Gal 2.20

When something is crucified then it dies!

Galatians 2:20 - **I am crucified with Christ:** nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Rom 6.6

Romans 6:6 - 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.**

We have within us, as Born Again Christians, our old man and our renewed man. We are called upon by God to **Crucify** our old man, the flesh with in us, and to live in our new man our Born Again Spiritual life.

To Crucify your old man is to be dead to your old fleshy life filled with the manifestation of the flesh, worldly sinfulness.

The Word of God says,

Galatians 5:24 - And they that are Christ's **have crucified** the flesh with the affections and lusts.

The Apostle Paul wrote,

1 Corinthians 15:31 - . . . **I die daily.**

If you are a Born Again Christian then you must choose to crucify your old fleshy worldly self and then choose to live the Spirit led and filled life that the Lord Jesus Christ has place within you.

2. Surrender to be Led of the Spirit of God

Galatians 5:25 - If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

C. **Your Testimony (1 Cor 9.24-27)** – This is the **Why** we should live this Spirit Filled life.

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1. Crucify Your Flesh

Our Doctrinal Statement reads,

We believe that it is the responsibility of all believers **to witness by life and by word** to the truths of the Holy Scriptures and to assume responsibility for the propagation of the gospel to all the world (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).

1 Cor 9.24

Every Christian needs to understand that how you live out your Christian Life matters. **Your Christian walk and life will affect,**

- **Your Personal Testimony**
- **The Testimony of this Church**
- **The Testimony of the Word of God**

I have met many people who claim to be born again Christians and live very sinful lives. I have heard them say, “How I live my life does not affect anyone but me.” They are so very wrong.

*1 Corinthians 9:24–27 - Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. ²⁵And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. ²⁶I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: ²⁷**But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.***

When you live in worldly flesh and sinfulness as a Christian you make yourself to be **a castaway**. No one will listen to you and no one will listen to any of those with whom you associate. You cause yourself to be a castaway and your church to be a castaway.

Christians must,

1 Corinthians 9:27 - But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: . . .

Which is very similar to,

Galatians 5:24 - And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

How you live out your life matters to God. The **Incorruptible Crown** is given to those who master their Christian Life.

1 Corinthians 9:25–27 - And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. ²⁶*I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:* ²⁷*But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

By this crown God reveals that He finds it very important that you live in the Spirit not in the worldly flesh.

How is your life Christian?

Is your life a testimony to the New Spiritual Life that the Lord Jesus Christ has given you?

Do you live a Carnal, Worldly, Fleshy life of sin and immorality? Or have you Crucified the Flesh and live in victory for the Lord Jesus Christ?

If you are here today and are not Born Again then know that the Lord Jesus Christ has a far better life for you if you will receive God free gift of eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ.

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B. How To Mature From The Flesh Into the Spirit

1. Crucify Your Flesh
2. Surrender to be led of the Spirit of God

C. Your Testimony