



The War Between the Flesh and the Holy Spirit in Us

Galatians 5:16-21

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.



Galatians 5:16

• But I say, **walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**



Consider for a moment the implications of all that Paul is saying concerning humans.

Humans are such complex beings that they can be influenced by the Spirit of God or that which Paul describes as the flesh.

The Spirit is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, dwelling in every believer.



He desires to guide the believer into knowing and doing the will of God in each and every situation—if the believer listens and obeys.

The Flesh



The flesh, in this case, is the sinful nature of every human being born after Adam's likeness.

It is the propensity to sin without any outside influence or instruction.

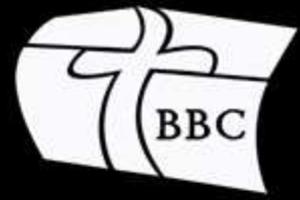


Turn to

Romans 7 v. 18



18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.



Romans 7:18

- For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.



Romans 7:19

- For I do not do the good I want,
- but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.



Romans 7:20

- Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

**Sin is like a virus dwelling
in our flesh**



Romans 7:21

- So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, **evil lies close at hand.**



Romans 7:22–23

- For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.



Romans 7:24-25a

- Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?
- Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!



Romans 7:25b

- So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, **but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.**



Galatians 5:16

- But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Look very closely at what Paul is saying:



If I do not walk by the Spirit, I may gratify the desires of the flesh.

Paul is showing me how I can ensure I am not gratifying the desires of the flesh. I must walk by the Spirit.



**Central to orthodox Christianity
is the understanding that mankind is
depraved.**

**This is not to say that unsaved humans
can't do good or to say that all humans are
equally depraved, but humans left to
themselves will default to sinful choices or
the desires of the flesh.**



Galatians 5:16

• But I say, walk by the Spirit,
and you will not gratify
the desires of the
flesh.



What are the desires of the flesh?



A desire of the flesh is anything that acted upon would result in a violation of God's law filtered through the New Covenant.

Laziness is a desire of the flesh





Laziness as opposed to REST

The Holy Spirit
could very easily
direct you to REST



Genesis 2:15

- The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to work it** and **keep it.**



Exodus 20:9

From the 10 Commandments:

- Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,

Even before Moses all humans are commanded to



- 1) Be fruitful and multiply**
- 2) Subdue and have dominion over the earth**
- 3) Work and keep all that God has created**

Nothing in the rest of the Bible would even remotely suggest this isn't still in force



When it comes to filtering: 3 areas immediately come to mind. The New Covenant changed all the

- 1) Kosher laws**
- 2) Jewish feasts and celebrations; including the Sabbath**
- 3) Laws relating to living as a people in the promised land**



Teaching the **TRUTH**

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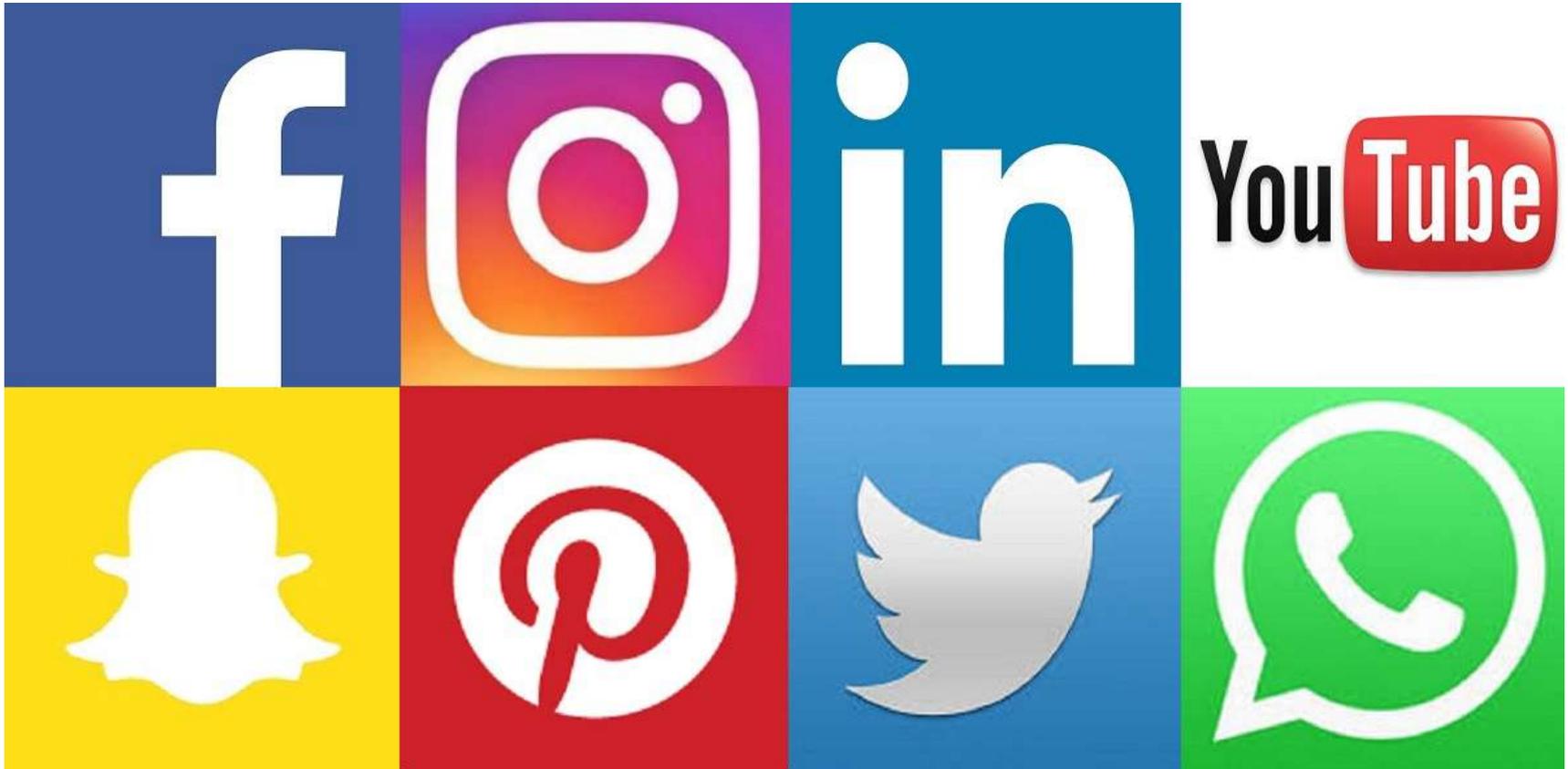
Lust & envy

are desires of
the flesh



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Could this be a desire of the flesh?





Galatians 5:17

- 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.



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Romans 7:22–23

- For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law **waging war** against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.





Mark 7:20–23

- Jesus said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man,

**The heart of man is
where the conflict occurs
and where the battle is won
or lost.**



**God has placed His Spirit in
us to secure the victory.**



Mark 7:20–23

- come **evil thoughts,**

How similar are evil thoughts to the desires of the flesh?



Mark 7:20–23

- sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ **All these evil things** come from within, **and they defile a person.**”



Galatians 5:18

- But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law.



Romans 8:14

- For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.



What does it mean to be led by the Spirit?



To be led by the Holy Spirit means that the Spirit of God dwelling in me guides, directs, and informs my way of life including my decisions, choices, and priorities.

To be led by the Spirit means I am not my own boss.

To be led by the Spirit requires



- **That the Christian knows the only Book the Spirit wrote**
- **Restraint to wait on the Spirit to speak**
- **An ear to hear the still small voice reveal the will of God**
- **Strength to resist the temptation to follow the flesh**



Galatians 5:19

- Now the **works of the flesh** are evident [obvious]:

**The desires of the flesh lead
to the works of the flesh**

sexual immorality	sexual immorality	immorality
impurity	moral impurity	impurity
sensuality	promiscuity	sensuality
idolatry	idolatry	idolatry
sorcery	sorcery	witchcraft
enmity	hatreds	hostilities
strife	strife	discord
jealousy	jealousy	jealousy
fits of anger	outbursts of anger	outbursts of anger
rivalries	selfish ambitions	selfish ambition
dissensions	dissensions	dissensions
divisions	factions	factions
envy	envy	envy
drunkenness	drunkenness	drunkenness
orgies	carousing	carousing



Galatians 5:20-21

- and things like these.

**What
would
Paul write
about
today?**





Galatians 5:21

- I **warn you**, as I warned you before,

a statement or event that indicates a possible or impending danger



WARNING

Teaching the **TRUTH**

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Galatians 5:21

- that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God includes



- 1) God's Sovereign rule over all of creation**
- 2) God's perfect and complete rule over all in heaven**
- 3) The rule of God in the hearts of His people on the earth**
- 4) The eventually eternal kingdom God will establish on this earth in His perfect timing according to His providence.**



Revelation 11:15

- Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”



The word **inherit** reminds us that this is something we cannot earn or purchase

The kingdom of God is both now (already) and coming (not yet)

The kingdom that we will or will NOT inherit is God's kingdom to be established eternally on this earth



What is the Bible alternative to inheriting the kingdom of God?



Romans 8:13

- For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

this is the second death



Revelation 20:14; 21:8

- Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. **This is the second death, the lake of fire.**
- But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, **which is the second death.**”



Mitigate

Is to make less
severe, frequent, or
serious

Warning



- Desires of the flesh left unmitigated lead to
 - **Works of the flesh**

Warning



- Desires of the flesh left unmitigated lead to
- Works of the flesh which in turn left unmitigated lead to
- **The second death**

Warning



- Desires of the flesh left unmitigated lead to
- Works of the flesh which in turn left unmitigated lead to
- The second death which is guaranteed to lead to
- **An eternity in the Lake of Fire** created for the devil and His angels



But There Is

Good

News

The Good News Is



- **Through personal dependent faith in Christ's death, burial and resurrection for your sins God will create in you a new heart**
- **And He will put His Spirit in you**
- **So that you can be cleansed and start winning the fight over the desires and works of the flesh**