

## Gal 14 – The Battle of Spirit v. Flesh, PT 2 - Gal 5:19-25

This is **Pt-2** of a msg we started 1st wk – If you weren't here -  
pls get that msg – because **it's the ground work** for this msg (*why*)

I'd also really **encourage you** to get the msg "Spirit or flesh" from **WBM**  
because it goes into **HOW** to Walk in the Spirit (*3-step recipe*)

Today we look at the **Litmus test** – that easily proves whether  
our actions are coming from **the Flesh** – or From **the Spirit**

**Websters** defines "Litmus Test"; ***a test where a single fact is decisive***

& that's what these lists do – If we will apply them to our lives - - they are  
**"Decisive Proof"** of whether we are "In the Flesh" – or "In the Spirit"

Paul is going to show us today – **side-by-side** – what  
**Walking in the Flesh** looks like – vs. what -  
**Walking in the Spirit** looks like

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### **Let's Pray**

it's important for us to understand – Neither of these lists is Exhaustive –  
We find other lists on this subject in **Eph 4** & **Col 3** (*& other places*)

### **WE'VE PUT A BOOKMARK IN YOUR BULLETIN TODAY . . .**

#### **Gal 5:19(A)**

*19 Now the works of the flesh are evident,*

The "Works of the Flesh" is what the **Flesh produces** in our lives –  
including (& especially) the Christian's life (*Paul's writing to Christians*)

& we defined "**The Flesh**" as the **sin nature** we still drag around as Christians  
**the nature** that's supposed to be **AT WAR** with the **New Nature**

& to be “**In the Flesh**” doesn’t take an “**Active Choice**” (*like Walking in the Spirit*) because by our “nature” the flesh **just comes out** on it’s own

I think **that’s why** Paul says the works of the flesh are “Evident” . . .

### **Gal 5:19-21(A)**

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; . . .

Paul seems to break the Works of the Flesh down into basically **3 Categories**:  
**Sexual / Religious / Relational** . . . 1<sup>st</sup> is Sexual

#### **SEXUAL:**

**Adultery** = just what we think it is

**Fornication** = from Gk “porneia” where we get our “pornography” –

Lit: all sexual acts outside of marriage

**Uncleanness** = lustful or impure living

**Lewdness** = unrestrained sexual indulgence

Paul **starts out** with the “Familiar” works of the Flesh -

The **sexual** areas of The Flesh are the easy ones –

**& the ones** Christians love to point at - & condemn people for . . .

**unfortunately** – the **Sexual** areas of the Flesh – are in the **same list**

as Jealousy - Selfish Ambition - & Dissention - (*important to remember*)

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Next - Paul goes to the **Religious** Works of the Flesh (*only 2*);

## **RELIGIOUS;**

**Idolatry** = *Worshipping anything over God (esp. anything man-made)*

**Sorcery** = Gk – “*pharmakeia*” – where we get “*pharmaceutical*” –  
*the word became a Synonym for occult practices because of the heavy reliance on drugs*

So – **Idolatry & Sorcery** – are the **Religious Works of the Flesh**

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& now - we get to the **Relational Works of the flesh** . . .

Interesting Paul lists **4 Sexual Works of the Flesh** – & only **2 Religious** –  
but he lists **11 Relational Works of the Flesh** . . .  
& then he ends it by saying . . . ***and the like***

## **RELATIONAL;**

**1) Hatred** – *strong feelings of malice toward another person*

(**malice** = “*a desire to see pain or distress in another*)

**2) Contentions** – *discord or quarrels*

**3) Jealousy** – *distrust or suspicion of another person*

**4) Outbursts of wrath** – *actions brought about by anger*

**5) Selfish ambitions** – *self-centered interest at another’s expense*

**6) Dissentions** – *separations caused by disagreements*

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**7) Heresies** – (Gk - either Religious or Relational) – *in a ‘Relational sense’ =  
dissension arising from diversity of opinions (KJV = factions)*

**8) Envy** – *jealousy of another’s prosperity*

**9) Murders** – *certainly a work of the Flesh (or worse)*

**10) Drunkenness** – *just what we think . . .*

**11) Revelries** – *rowdy, rude behavior – “the consequence of drunkenness”*

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Now (*for me*) a portion of this list has **special application** to “The Church”  
**the MORE** we consider ourselves “In The Church” –  
**the LESS** we think - we may be operating “In the Flesh”

But **Remember** – Paul is **writing to** Christians “In the Church”

So - I want to look at just **6 of these 11** "Works of the Flesh" . . .  
w/ **special thought** toward our **actions** in the church

- 1) Hatred** – strong feelings of malice toward another person
- 2) Contentions** – discord or quarrels
- 3) Jealousy** – distrust or suspicion of another person
- 4) Outbursts of wrath** – actions brought about by anger
- 5) Selfish ambitions** – self-centered interest at another's expense
- 6) Dissentions** – separations caused by disagreements

if WE have . . .[definition] . . WE are **acting in the Flesh**

if WE are in a . . .[definition] . WE are **acting in the Flesh**

if WE have . . .

Guys – We **need to be honest** with ourselves about these actions –  
because these are the actions that **Destroy Churches Every Day**  
as Christians **play right into** the Enemy's hand - day after day . . .

But If **Jesus Christ** truly has **Rule & Reign** in our life

**IF** we are being **Led by the Spirit** –

then we should be **AT WAR** with these Works of the Flesh

that **doesn't mean** we won't ever stumble in these areas –

but **when we do** - The Holy Spirit will convict us - & we must repent of it

**If Christians** in the Church would **force themselves** to be **Honest**  
about **these actions** being the Works of the Flesh in their lives . . .

Then **the enemy** would have to resort to other **tactics** (schemes)  
to continue to try to destroy the **church**

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Now – that's a **heavy message** to the Church – but it's about to **get heavier**  
We're about to read a **very serious Warning** about these Works of the Flesh

**Gal 5:21(B)** after finishing the list of the Works of the Flesh . . .

*21(b) . . . of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Now **THAT** is a serious Warning – & this is *not the only place* we see it;  
**1Jn Ch 3 – 1Cor Ch 6 – Eph Ch 5** – all have **similar warnings**

But to *understand* this **Warning** – we **Must** *understand* the *Greek Language*

The Greek Verb here for the word **“PRACTICE”** - is **prasso**:

**Tense & Voice** = **Present & Active** = a **continual habitual** action –  
**Verb mood** = the Gk *Participle* = like adding **“ing”** to English word

So – in the Greek this Vs. would say:

Those who are **Continually, Habitually Practicing**  
these things **will not** inherit the Kingdom of Heaven

Now - *Is that a picture* of a Christian who **loses** their Salvation  
for **Continually Practicing** these things . . . **I don't think so**

It is a **picture** of someone who has **NOT** truly made *Jesus Christ their Lord* –  
a **picture** of someone who has **NOT** truly been *Born-Again*

What the Bible is saying in these Warnings is:

**IF** you have truly made Jesus Christ your **Lord** –  
you will **NOT BE Continually, Habitually, Practicing** these things

These warnings are a **Salvation** *“wake-up call”* to those who think they  
can be habitually *“Walking in the Flesh”* & **still say Jesus is their Lord**

Now this doesn't mean a Christian won't fall into the Flesh – **We do**

But *when we do* – the **Holy Spirit** *convicts us*  
& causes us to be **repentant** & **remorseful** for stumbling

The **Gk word** used for the **Occasional Occurrence** of these practices;  
would be "**poieo**" – & it would **not have** the "Verb Aspects"  
of Continual & Habitual action

So - **That makes** this list of the "Works of the Flesh" – quite a **Litmus test**

Now – *I don't mean* to be **too direct** here; but - - if we are  
Continually, Habitually Practicing these things - - there's a chance  
we need (today) to **Truly** make Jesus Christ the Lord of our lives

**& Praise God** – if just **1 person** today realizes that !!!

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**Let's move on** to the Contrast of the Fruit of the Spirit

In Contrast to the "Works of the Flesh"  
**What** would be the **Continual Habitual Practice**  
**of a Christian** who is Walking in the Spirit ?

### **Gal 5:22-23(A)**

22 But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness,  
23 gentleness, self-control . . . .

Notice - these actions are **Fruits** – **NOT Works**

The **Works of the Flesh** are actions **we produce ourselves** –  
The **Fruit of the Spirit** are actions **we CANNOT produce** ourselves

These actions are **produced one way** - & one way only –  
. . . described by Jesus Himself in **Jn 15:4-5** . . .

### **Jn 15:4-5**

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides  
in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 *“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*

Jesus makes it clear – we **CANNOT** produce the **Fruit of the Spirit** –  
All we can do - is **Abide in Him** – & **He produces** it thru us

Over **70 times** in the NT – the **Fruit of the Believer** is addressed  
maybe that’s why **Religion** is so prone to “Works Based” Salvation –  
. . . sometimes we **like to say** our “Works” are really “Fruit”

*The difference – is Relationship . . . .;*

We can **ACT** Religious - **w/o having** a relationship w/ Christ  
But we **CANNOT** produce the *Fruit of the Spirit* w/o that  
*continual abiding relationship* w/ Jesus Christ

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So – Let’s go back to **Gal 5:22** - & look at the *Fruit of the Holy Spirit*

### **Gal 5:22-23(A)**

22 But the **fruit** of the Spirit is *love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

23 *gentleness, self-control . . . .*

**IF** we are Abiding in Christ as our Lord & Savior . . .

& **IF** we are *Walking in the Spirit* (discussed last wk) –  
then **THIS** is the *fruit* that will be **coming thru** our lives

& it will come *more & more* as we **grow** in our Relationship w/ Christ . . .

as we are transformed more & more into His image –

As we “**Behold**” *His Glory* (as in a mirror) **2Cor 3:18** says –  
then we’ll be transformed from *Glory to Glory* – **BY** the *Spirit of the Lord*

& **IF** this fruit is **NOT** in your life – you can begin to have it **today** –

all you have to do is **CHOOSE** to *Abide more in Christ* –  
& **CHOOSE** to *Walk more in the Spirit* (thought-by-thought)

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Let's go thru the Fruit one at a time;

**1) Love** – *The Supreme Fruit of Christ living in us - the Gk word = Agape*

Some **scholars feel** this is actually the all-encompassing Fruit of the Spirit -  
& **the rest** is the fruit that **flows out** of True Agape Love

Jesus said in **Mat 22** – there are **TWO** “all encompassing” **commandments**

**Love** the Lord your God - & **Love** your Neighbor –  
& both times Jesus uses the **Verb form** of Agape (agapao)

& **Rom 5:5** says the **ONLY** way we can have this kind of love is  
to have it poured out into our hearts **BY** the Holy Spirit

Agape Love is the **ALL-Unconditional** / **ALL-Sacrificial** Love of God

& **in that way** - **Agape love** *does encompass* all the other Fruit –  
(*but we're going to go thru the List anyway*)

**2) Joy** – *nothing to do with circumstances - not a human emotion -  
A deep-down sense of well being that all is Right between you God –  
it often comes in the midst of the worst circumstances*

**3) Peace** – *also NOT related to circumstances – A Tranquility of Mind that  
comes from knowing God is in control of all aspects of a believer's life –  
& knowing He is always at Work for our Ultimate Good*

**4) Longsuffering (Patience)** – **LIT:** *the tolerance to endure injuries inflicted  
by others, and the calm willingness to accept irritating or painful situations*

**5) Kindness** – *a tender concern for others –  
a genuine desire to treat others 'gently'*



**6) Goodness** – a moral & spiritual excellence evidenced by active kindness

**7) Faithfulness** – loyalty & trustworthiness

**8) Gentleness** – often translated “Meekness” –  
a humble and gentle attitude that is patiently submissive in every  
offense, while being free of any desire for revenge or retribution

**9) Self-Control** – **LIT:** to master fleshly desires and passions

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**WOW** – that’s quite a list – and *hopefully* we all feel ‘convicted’ a bit (*I do*)  
because this Fruit should **always be growing** more & more in us

This list is **not meant** to make us “Give Up” –  
but **instead** to make us “Cling to Christ” all the more

**As we Abide** more & more in Christ – the **outcome** will be;  
the Fruit of the Spirit will **increase** more & more in our lives . . .

What **a great thing** to look forward to - in our Life w/ Christ

## **2Pet 1:5-8**

5 *But also for this very reason* [that we are partakers of the Divine nature – **v.4**], *giving all  
diligence, **add** to your faith virtue, [add] to virtue knowledge,*

6 [add] *to knowledge self-control, [add] to self-control perseverance, [add] to  
perseverance godliness,*

7 [add] *to godliness brotherly kindness, and [add] to brotherly kindness love.*

8 *For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in  
the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

I love the word **ADD** (*Written once – then implied*) – because it means  
there’s **HOPE** - - - AS I continue to Abide in Christ . . .  
**HE** will be **Adding** these things to my life !!

My point is – **IF** we are **Abiding** in Jesus Christ –  
we will **always** be growing this Fruit . . .

So – take Hope – the Fruit of the Spirit will be more & more evident in our lives the more & more we Abide in Christ (the more we KNOW Him)

the Fruit of the Spirit is the Supernatural Outcome of Abiding in Jesus – of always seeking to Know Him more - of being Desperately Dependent on Him

& that's the great confidence we have – in living the Christian life

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& so back in Gal Ch 5 – at the end of V.23 we read;

**Gal 5:23(B)**

*v.23(B) . . . Against such there is no law.*

simply meaning there is NO LAW written against such Godly actions –

& let's finish today – starting in Gal 5:24

*24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

a POSITIONAL Statement – meant to give us confidence in the battle

**In Rom 6:6 - Paul says;**

*6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

If you belong to Christ today – He has Positionally Crucified your Old (sin) Nature – It no longer has Power over you –

You are no longer are a slave to your Sin Nature –  
You are no longer a slave to your Flesh

Because of Jesus Christ – you no longer are in bondage to live by the Works of the Flesh

## **So – in Gal 5:24 – When Paul says;**

*24 And those who are Christ's have **crucified** the flesh with its passions and desires.*

It means we are **FREE** to Walk in the Spirit – because Jesus Christ has paid the price to **crucify** our flesh & **set us free** from it's Bondage

& so – when we receive **New Life** in Christ - the Old Nature is now **Crucified** - & we **can now** live in the Spirit . . .

**HOWEVER** – as always – **our only Role** is our “Response” to God's Grace & we have a **Role of Response** – to that New Life in the Spirit . . .

## **Gal 5:25**

*25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also **walk** in the Spirit.*

Remember – the word “walk” means to “Regulate One's Life” –

So **IF** we **Live** in the Spirit (*thru our Faith in Christ*) – **THEN** . . .  
Let us **ALSO Choose** to Regulate our lives **by** the Spirit

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Jesus Christ has paid the price to **Crucify our Flesh**

The Holy Spirit indwells us – as our Power to **Live in the Spirit** . . .

Let's make the choice to **WALK in the Spirit** –

So we will **Not fulfill** the desires of the Flesh

## **Let's Pray**