

God's View on Four Crucial

ISSUES

- God's View on Life
- God's view on Personhood
- God's view on Marriage
- **God's View on Freedom**

Galatians 5:1ff

The World says

We are no longer _____

We are free to _____

Christ says

We are no longer _____

We are free to _____

The World says

We are no longer bound to outdated teachings
& traditions

We are free to do what we believe is right in our
own eyes

Christ says

We are no longer slaves to sin (flesh)

We are free to follow Christ, love & serve one
another

How to Change Behavior

World's Way

- Change laws or create new laws
- Enforce laws
- Punish law breakers
- Conform masses to obey laws for the “good” of the whole

God's Way

- Change the heart born with a sin nature
- Yield to the Holy Spirit to bear fruit
- Walk in the Spirit

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Galatians 5:1, 13

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

Galatians 5:16-17

Contrast Flesh & Spirit

1. Works of the flesh in contrast to the fruit of the Spirit
2. The destructive nature of the works of the flesh in contrast to the constructive fruit of the Spirit
3. The flesh gravitates to sin in contrast to the fruit of the Spirit that reflects the nature & character of God

“idolatry, sorcery, hostility,
quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of
anger, selfish ambition, dissension,
division, envy.”

Galatians 5:20-21a

Pattern of works of the flesh

- Our sin nature turns from God and focuses on self (*Idolatry, drugs*)
- Interpersonal relationships break down (*hatred*) and a spirit of discord/strife develops (*discord*)
- A desire to want what others have (*jealously*) leads to “fits of rage” when they don’t get it

Pattern of works of the flesh

- People then focus on self-service and self-promotion (*selfish ambition*)
- This leads to backbiting and bad-mouthing which creates a divisive spirit (*dissensions*), and opposes the truth of God's Word (*factions*)
- The flesh constantly craves for more never having enough (*envy*)

Practice a Spirit-filled Life

- Constantly works at putting away sinful desires, 5:24
- Follows Christ and conforms to His example in our attitudes, conduct, and lifestyle, 5:25
- This leads us to put away pride, practice restraint, and respect others

BOTTOM LINE

True reform will only take place when hearts are changed through a personal relationship with Christ.