

TWO OPTIONS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES

Dr. Larry Lamb – January 26, 2020

GOD'S AIM IS NOT TO PRODUCE RULE FOLLOWERS, BUT PEOPLE WHO DESIRE A DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST.

GALATIANS 5.16 "...let the Holy Spirit guide your lives."

GALATIANS 5.17 *The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.*

The sinful nature has patterns. The Holy Spirit has patterns.
The result... *tension* in life for as long as we live.

Here are two thoughts about guiding:

- 1) The Holy Spirit wants to guide our lives **AWAY** from the desires of the sinful nature.
- 2) The Holy Spirit wants to guide our lives **TOWARD** someone...Christ.

GALATIANS 5. 19-21 *When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, **20** idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, **21** envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*

FOUR CATEGORIES:

- **Sexual sins** (sexual immorality {PORNEIA = pornography}, impurity, lustful pleasures or no shame)
- **Religious sins of pagan cultures** (idolatry, witchcraft)
- **Relationship sins** (hatred, discord, jealousy, rage, selfishness, dissensions, factious, and envy).
- **Party sins** (drunkenness and wild parties (orgies)).

GALATIANS 5.22,23 *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

- 1) Slick advertising from the culture that glamourizes a sinful nature can never **COMPETE** with the peace and joy that God offers.

“Secret sin cannot co-exist with inner peace.”

Chuck Swindoll

- 2) If the Holy Spirit were to guide you away from a **DESTRUCTIVE** sin that’s listed in Galatians 5.19-21, what would it be?
- 3) Let’s develop the joy of being guided by the Holy Spirit as we PACE our way through the day.

P = PRAISE (I will wake up saying, “Lord Jesus, I love You and praise you for this new day.”)

A = ABIDING (I will say, “Lord Jesus, You are the Vine and I am the branch. I abide in You.”)

C = COMMITMENT (“Lord, I commit my heart to You, my life, my all to You. I am submitted to do Your will.”)

E = EXPECTATION (“Lord, I expect You to live Your life through me by faith.”)

“Let the Lord restore you spiritually. Even when you don’t feel loved, He loves you. There is nothing you can do to make Him love you any more or to love you any less. He doesn’t love you because you are valuable; you are valuable because He loves you. He does not change you so He can love you; He loves you so He can change you.”

ADRIAN ROGERS

Jesus, I thank You that you came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and in need of Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say “No” to a life of living for myself. I turn to You and say “Yes” to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me and forgiving me. Amen.