

# The Liberty of the Flesh vs. the Freedom of the Spirit

Galatians 5:19-23

**Ga. 4:1-2** I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father.

**Ga. 4:3-5** In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 **to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive** adoption as sons.

**Ga. 5:16-18** 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.**

**Ga. 5:19-21** 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. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

**Ga. 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

## I. The Destructive Inclinations of the Flesh

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*All activity of the flesh is motivated by our false understanding of what constitutes happiness and how we can achieve it.*

- The attempt to find joy in sexual pleasures
- The attempt to control God
- The attempt to control people
- The attempt to find significance in intoxication

- **The attempt to find joy in physical pleasures**

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*Sexual immorality (Fornication).* πορνεία - speaks of general sexual immorality.

*Impurity ἀκαθαρσία, literally useless material, garbage; literally worthless material, waste;*

**Ro 1:24-25** Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

*Sensuality, ἀσέλγεια as living without any moral restraint licentiousness, lewdness,*

- **The attempt to control God**

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- **The attempt to control people**

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- **The attempt to find happiness in intoxication**

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## **II. The Abundant Life of the Spirit**

**Ga. 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

*The works of the flesh is what we ourselves generate  
The fruit of the Spirit is what the Holy Spirit does within ourselves*

*The fruit of the Spirit is a result of the activity of the Holy Spirit in  
the regenerated spirit of the Christian*

**2 Co 3:17-18** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**2 Co 4:6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Ga. 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

**Ro 8:31-32** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

**Ro 8:35** Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

**Ro 8:38-39** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

**Рим 8:28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

**John 13:34** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another

**John 15:5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing

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