

- I) V19 INTRO: Now the works of the flesh **are evident** which are: adultery, fornication
- II) V17 Paul just wrote concerning the battle between our **flesh** and the **Holy Spirit**
BRIEFLY
- III) The word **flesh** is used various ways and context determines its meaning
It speaks of people in general (all flesh) but can speak of human nature
HUMAN NATURE
- IV) Our **flesh** is that part of us that functions apart **from** and **against** the Spirit
This is what Paul is speaking of in this passage
- V) He stated that the flesh **lusts against the Spirit** and the Spirit **against the flesh**
Lusts against: To long after, like a tug of war seeking domination and victory
THIS IS THE WAR WITHIN
- VI) This describes our **inner battle**, a war that rages **within us**
It is a constant battle for control, and it is unrelenting
Ro 8:7-8 The mind that is set on the flesh (sinful nature) **is hostile** to God; it does not submit to God's law, **nor can it do so**. Those controlled by the flesh cannot please God
- VII) We battle daily with desires that run contrary to God's work in our lives
When we act upon those desires, we produce what are called **works of the flesh**
- VIII) Jesus spoke of these desires
Mk 7:20-23 What comes out of a person is what defiles them. For it is **from within, out of a person's heart**, that **evil thoughts** come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come **from inside** and defile a person.”
- IX) These are what are called **the works** (actions) **of the flesh**
These are the acts that reveal the reality of the sinful tendencies of man
The word **flesh** describes the sinful nature of humanity
FACT
- X) Even though we are saved, we still retain a **desire** and **predisposition** to sin
It can be so frustrating to those who want to honor God
Ro 7:15 What I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that **I do!**
SIMULTANEOUSLY
- XI) We have a new nature with a **predisposition** towards **living for God**
When you are saved you retain an old nature, but also possess a **new nature**

- I) The old nature is called the **old man**, a nature that resists the Spirit's work in you
This produces an struggle that makes it difficult to serve God without distraction
Ro 7:18-19 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature (flesh). For **I have the desire** to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do--this I keep on doing.

DEVELOP

- II) The early church father's taught that Christians have two distinct natures
These are referred to as the *old* and the *new* natures, or **the old** and **new man**
Eph 4:22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the **old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts
Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the **old man** with his deeds
- III) The new man is the new nature received when we are saved (2 Co 5:17)
We receive this new nature when we are born again
Eph 4:24 put on the new man, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness
1 Pe 1:23 Being *born again*, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides forever.

THE PROBLEM

- IV) Even though we are born again there is a struggle for domination
There is an internal struggle: many call it **the War Within**
- V) Paul now contrasts the **works** of the flesh with **fruit** of the Spirit
- VI) V19 Now the works of the flesh are **evident** (plainly recognized or known)
Paul now gives a list of what is produced by **the sinful nature**
- VII) Fifteen works of the flesh are listed, and *need* to be mentioned (**briefly**)
- VIII) He breaks them into four groups
V19 **Sensual** sins (physical passions pertaining to a lack of moral restraint)
V20 **Idolatry** (spiritual)
V20b-21a Sins producing strife in the Body of Christ
V21b Drunken sins

FIRST

- IX) He begins by listing **sexual sins**: *adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness*
These sins are associated with impurity, either hidden or in the open
Sensual sins are specifically associated with pagan idolaters

- I) **Adultery**: Extramarital sex with someone other than the spouse
This is a terrible sin because it is so destructive
It undermines the sanctity of marriage and faithfulness and destroys commitment
- II) It ruins the couple, their children, the extended family, and society itself
Ex 20:14 You shall not commit adultery
Pr 6:32 Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding: he who does it destroys his own soul.
- III) **Fornication**: Illicit sexual intercourse; adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, etc
It undermines the value of marriage and defrauds the future husband/wife
1 Th 4:3-7 It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the pagans, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong or take advantage of a brother or sister. The Lord will punish all those who commit such sins, as we told you and warned you before. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.
- IV) It does not matter to God if it is with your fiancé
- V) **Uncleanness**: Sexual impurity: Filthy thoughts, desires, actions (molester)
Licentiousness: One who gives **free reign** to sexual impulses, doesn't hold back
Col 3:5-6 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming
- SECOND**
- VI) **Idolatry**: Anything that substitutes something for God
There is one God and He alone is to be worshiped
Ex 20:4-5 You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them
- VII) He made it clear that there is no way you can worship two things, equally
He demands exclusive worship because He is worthy of exclusive worship
- VIII) The flesh is inclined to replace God with a homemade god
For this reason, we are to avoid giving our worship to anything but God
1 Jn 5:21 Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen

- I) **Sorcery**: Pharmakeia: Incantations, spells, using charms to tap into power
It can **also refer** to mind altering and recreational drug use
- II) During this time drugs were used in connection to rituals and religious rites
They opened your mind so you could communicate with demonic spirits
Rev 22:14-15 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. **But outside** are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

THIRD

- III) Personal relationships, strife in the church
Notice the regression that goes from sin to even worse sin
- IV) **Hatred**: Hostile attitudes that are a product of and lead to constant hostility
Contentions: Hearing of problems, and then emotionally choosing sides
Pr 18:17 The first to present his case seems right, till another comes forward and questions him.
- V) **Jealousies**: An envious and contentious rivalry
Outbursts of wrath: Fiery flashes of rage
Selfish ambition: Desire to have preeminence
Dissensions: Party spirit, taking sides and scheming against another party
Heresies: Division arising from diversity of opinions and aims
Envy: Displeasure aroused when someone has what you want
Murder: The ultimate division of heart
- FOURTH**: Drunken sins
- VI) Drunkenness: Inebriation, more than likely at pagan orgies
Pr 20:1 Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise
- VII) Revelries: Feasts and drinking parties that continue till late at night
Getting drunk and engaging in rude, crude behavior
Pr 23:29-30 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine.

- VIII) The desire to drink and get drunk is a work of the flesh

SUMMATION

- IX) V21 Those who **practice** such things will not inherit the kingdom of Heaven

- I) **Practice:** Continuous behavior reveals the character of a person
The character of the unregenerate is to **practice these works**: They are not saved
- II) We are known by what we practice, not our occasional acts
Though we can still perform these sins, it is not our practice and out of character
1 Jn 3:6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.
IN CONTRAST TO THE WORKS OF THE FLESH
- III) V22-23 Gives us a short list of the **fruit of the Spirit**
The **works** of the flesh are naturally produced because of our old nature
The Fruit of the Spirit finds its life in the Spirit of God
- IV) This fruit is not produced because we have kept the Law of Moses
This fruit is produced because we have the Holy Spirit
BRIEFLY
- V) Notice how Paul spoke of the works of the flesh, in contrast to the fruit of the Spirit
Works is in the plural because they don't necessarily work together
Fruit is singular because the fruit all describes **one thing**: God's love
POINT
- VI) As the flesh has identifying traits so does the work of the Spirit of God
- VII) This fruit is produced by a life strengthened and empowered by the Spirit
It is how God's work of His Spirit is revealed in the life of a believer
Mt 12:33 Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, **for a tree is recognized by its fruit.**
NOTICE
- VIII) The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness
The fruit of the Spirit: *Singular*, yet described by eight words
- IX) The **fruit of love** results abiding in Jesus, the True Vine
Jn 15:4-5 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. 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.
- X) As Christians we make decisions concerning our walks every day
We choose to abide in Jesus: To walk in His Spirit making no provision for the flesh
We abide (make our home) in Him, and He produces His love in our lives

- I) Love for God and others is the supreme virtue of Christian living
Love is the identifying mark of the Christian
Jn 13:34-35 A new commandment I give to you that you love one another as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another
- II) God's **love** (AGAPE) reveals personal choice, and is a sure sign of salvation
Love is not simply emotions or feelings but willing, sacrificial service
It is best revealed by what Jesus did for us: Jn 3:16, Ro 5:8
LOVE IS DESCRIBED BY EIGHT WORDS
- III) **Joy** (Chara) Used 70 times in the NT to signify gladness based on spiritual life
Jesus' life and ministry was characterized by Joy, a joy He gives to us
Jn 15:11 I have told you these things so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be full (to overflowing)
- IV) Joy does not originate in human circumstances, but from the fulness of the Spirit
It comes by the Spirit and from relationship with God
Ac 2:28 You will make me full of joy in Your presence.
- V) **Peace**: The calmness of spirit that comes from your relationship with God
We know that God is in control of everything, and we trust Him
Ro 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
- VI) **Longsuffering**: The ability to endure, over time, injuries with a calm inner strength
Jesus showed this by enduring His disciples, betrayal, abandonment
- VII) This aspect of love preserves the unity of the body of Christ
Col 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you
- VIII) **Kindness**: Tender concern for others; gentle treatment of people
Lu 18:16 Jesus called the children to Him and said Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these
Kindness ensures the possibility of a caring and compassionate church
Eph. 4:32 Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.

- I) **Goodness:** Moral and spiritual excellence, known by grace and sacrifice
Lu 23:34 Jesus said Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do
Jesus' goodness was shown by interceding for His persecutors
- II) **Goodness** is revealed in caring for others
Gal 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people,
especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
- III) **Faithfulness:** Trustworthiness; the character of one who can be relied on
Carefulness in preserving what is committed to our trust
Jn 4:34 My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work
- IV) His faithfulness was shown by His willingness to endure suffering and death
He did this on our behalf, and we can trust Him and should also be faithful
Heb 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised
is faithful
- V) V23 **Gentleness:** Meekness of spirit, humility of heart
It is the attitude that receives from the Lord both good and bad without complaint
It was the gentleness of Jesus that was so attractive to sinners
- VI) Remember the woman caught in adultery (Jn 8:1-11)
The Pharisees brought her to Jesus and made her stand before Him
They said they caught her in adultery, and the law said such should be stoned
- VII) They asked Him What do You say, in order to trap Him
This is when Jesus stooped down, wrote on the ground
He then said Let any one of you who is without sin be first to throw a stone at her
From the oldest to the youngest, one by one they left
- VIII) Woman where are your accusers? Has no one condemned you? She said No one,
Lord. Jesus said to her, Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more!
- IX) **Self-control:** (Temperance) The ability to restrain passion and appetite
When Jesus was tempted by the devil, He exercised self-control
When betrayed, taken, tried, forced to carry His cross and crucified He exercised
self-control

- I) V23 Against such **there is no law** because to do such things **is right**
There is no law against doing these kinds of things
- II) These kinds of things are beyond the sphere of law: the Law can't produce this!
Commands and rituals cannot produce this kind of love
This kind of love comes from the Lord and is not a natural love
- III) What is the way to have such love? Gal 5:16
CONCLUSION
- IV) What does this mean to walk in the Spirit
We yield control of our lives to the Spirit and follow His leading
- V) We learn to walk in His Spirit through time in God's word, prayer and obedience
By spending time in His word, we come to know God
- VI) The Spirit has given us a new life
Jn 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.
- VII) Jn 16:13 (Jesus promised) when He, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come.
- VIII) This takes discipline: it isn't something that occurs immediately
As I mentioned, there is an internal war and the battle is constant
Remember: (easier to grow weeds!)
- IX) We need to dwell on the fact that we are new in Jesus and have a new life
We have been purchased with the blood of Jesus, and are set free from bondage
Ro 6:14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.
- X) V24-25 Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions
We will not allow the flesh to reign over us (Gal 2:20)
Col 3:3 For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ in God
- XI) V26 Let us not become conceited provoking one another envying one another
Resist allowing your flesh to dominate your way of life and to undermine unity

- I) **Do not have selfish ambition, seeking the honor of others**
Do not have an attitude of superiority, provoking one another and arguing
Do no fall into the trap of envy, which causes division
- II) **In a word: Serve others, humble yourselves, and strive to maintain unity in Jesus**