

James 4:1,2
“How to Think Right”
May 2, 2026

Vv 1,2 Envy, self-seeking, confusion leading to quarreling and fighting, lusting for power and influence, coveting after one another, and hating in their hearts, which is the moral equivalent of murder.

And these are Christians, in a local church!

A war going on, between desire for pleasure and the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-18 “Walk” = the day to day, minute by minute behavior of your life; “in the Spirit” = in the constant awareness of your heavenly position, of the presence of the Holy Spirit within you, of the eternal nature of your existence, in the control of the Holy Spirit; there is a constant battle between what your “flesh” wants and what the Spirit wants; when the Spirit is leading us, there is no need for law, because the Spirit will never lead us *away from* the will of God.

Romans 6:4,5 When we are identified with Christ when we believe in Him, we were buried with Him. And we are resurrected with Him. We walk in a new way, by the Spirit.

Vv 6-8 Our old sin nature was crucified with Christ, so we are no longer obligated to obey it.

Vv 9-11 Jesus was subjected to the penalty of sin, death, for our sakes. Since He had no sin of His own, once He died, He was free to come back from the dead. We inherit His freedom from sin!

Notice the progression here: “Knowing,” v 9, first; “reckoning” or “considering”, v 11, next; then...

Vv 12,13 ...deciding to “not present” our “members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin...” “Our members” = all the parts of our body, our eyes and what we see, ears and what we hear, our mouths and what they say, hands that determine what we do, feet that carry us places, plus everything else, dedicated as “instruments of righteousness to God.”

V 14 We are not under law, because Christ kept the law for us, and He traded from us, our sin, and to us, His righteousness.

The law has no more role in our sanctification, because the power of sin is the law (1 Cor 15:56);

Because apart from the law, sin is dead (**Rom 7:8**).

Since we have died to sin (in Christ), we should consider ourselves dead to it. (**Rom 6:11**).

James 1:23-25 To peer into the perfect law of liberty is to recognize that we live by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus; we do not live by an external code of conduct.

Colossians 2:20-23 Adopting legalistic mechanisms to replicate the appearance of Spirit-produced good works has the “appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion,” but no power in actually defeating the flesh. Because law stimulates the flesh; only the power of the Holy Spirit can enable us to live victorious over our flesh.