

- The Ongoing warfare!
The Spirit against the Flesh
- **REVIEW**
- Series: “The Re-Born Identity”
- We are seeing how crucial it is to know who you are in Christ and who Christ is in you.
- You will always act out of who you think you are
- You as a Dad
- You don’t struggle with believing that your the father

to those kids

- “Lord, You have it in your head, please help me to get it in my heart that I am the parent.”
- No, I see myself as the parent and act out of that.
- -When you tell them to clean their room, You have authority in that area.
- You are just as accepted by the Father as Jesus is.
- -You are just as loved by the Father as Jesus is.
- -You have the same authority of sickness, disease, poverty, sin—all the works of the devil—as Jesus did
- When we recognize that we are sons and daughters of the King—Princes and Princesses of His Kingdom,
- He can live His life through us
- We can spend our inheritance, showing people how good our Dad is
- **Part 1:** The Old Man is Dead (dead to sin)—God removed the desire to sin from your true self
- **Part 2:** Why do I do the things I don’t want to do? (dead to the law)—the law reminds us that we can’t fulfill the law in our own strength
- -Key is to get weaker so we can get stronger
- -Christ living His life through us
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Today,

I want to look at sin, the flesh and what that means for the believer.

- Galatians 5:16-25
- ¹⁶**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.**
- Galatians 5:16-25
- ¹⁹**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**

- ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.
- *Why would Paul write to a group of born again believers,*
- *-who were dead to sin, and alive to Christ*
- *-dead to the law*
- *And tell them:*
- ¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
- ¹⁷For 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.
- For the same reason He told the church in Rome, **“Do not be conformed to this world; do not let this world squeeze you into it’s mold...”**
- -Because it is possible for people who have all the resources of Christ to not live from those resources
- Paul describes this life as **“according to the flesh”**
- -and it is completely at odds with the life now available to us that is life **“according to the Spirit.”**
- So, let’s go big picture:
- *What is the meaning of life?*
- *-What is the “why” of our being here?*
- *-Why am I here, what is the point of it all?*
- **(ILL)** Out of the overflow of love between a husband and a wife, they create a child, children, to share that love with.
- **We were created by God to enjoy His infinite and limitless love.**
- We were made in the **“image of God.”**
- -In plain English, that means that we are capable of receiving God's love.
- We don't only have antennas that can pick up God's love,
- -we also have a receiving set;
- -we can actually receive that love.
- **God's love can come into us and can dwell within us.**
- -We are capable of that and were made able to do that.
- **We are not only able to respond to God,**
- -but we are able to share that love He places inside of us with others.
- **We were created for a relationship with God.**
- -We were created to live our lives from him.
- -We were created to **“live and move and have our being”** in Him.
- **So, we are dependent on Him,**
- **-It is a dependent relationship** where He initiates, and He gives the life and the love we live from it.
- -We are dependent creatures in a dependent relationship of love.

- *Why am I here?*
- **To be a receiver of the life of God, to contain His life and to display it and to share it and to become an extension of God in every situation, as I am the steward of this planet.**
- **So, what I'm talking about is not becoming monks and nuns,**
- -It is not about being a "holy man";
- **When you are out in the "secular world" you are there to live by the life of God and live from the love of God.**
- -That is the meaning of life.
- **Sin is primarily not the breaking the rules.**
- -For many people that is quite shocking.
- -Then they think of sin they think that if "I should've done this" or "should not have done that".
- **Sin is primarily the breaking of a love relationship.**
- We were created to be dependent on God,
- -drawing from the love of God,
- -living in the love of God which is the life of God.
- And sin is not the breaking of rules,
- -sin is the breaking of the family relationship.
- It is the breaking away, it is the divorcing of myself from the love of God.
- **(ILL)** Sin is the wife walking into a restaurant and seeing her husband of 25 years sneaking behind her back and kissing another woman.
- -It is the breaking of a relationship. (Covenants!)
- **The fall of man, the entrance of sin, was a call to independence.**
- -It was the insane attempt of human beings to break relationship with God and to find meaning in themselves instead of in God.
- The temptation of Satan the reader in **Genesis 3** was "**you shall be as God**".
- **Think of this: only God has life in himself.**
- -God is self-existent.
- -God doesn't get his life from anywhere.
- **He is self existent, self-sufficient,**
- -He is the un-beginning source of all,
- -He is the fountain of life and existence.
- -His life in himself.
- -God doesn't have any life, He is life.
- The heart of sin is saying, "**I will be just like God is.**"
- "I will cut myself loose from God, from His wisdom from His love, from His life"
- **I can find all the life I need**
- -and all the love I need
- -and all the wisdom I need to handle life in myself, just like God.
- **I will be self-sufficient, I'll be self-existent, I will handle my life.**
- **When mankind declared independence from God, our Source, we would become our own meaning.**

- -We would have to create our own sense of life rather than get our meaning and source of life in God.
- -The problem is we can't.
- -To think we can is a great delusion and lie.
- **Let's say we have an electric coffee maker.**
- -Let's say that electric coffee maker chose total independence from electricity.
- -That is stupid.
- -That is just stupid is the fall of man.
- **If the coffee maker declares independence from electricity, *what are you left with?***
- -That is not an option with an electric coffee maker.
- The coffee pot can no longer fulfill its meaning.
- -It can no longer make coffee.
- -Therefore, it's destiny is gone.
- **It cannot be what it was made to be.**
- ***What is left with?*** It's left with a pot.
- -It is perfectly useless because it was specifically fashioned to be a coffee maker.
- In every part of the mechanics that drives it depends on electricity and now it is independent of electricity.
- -*So what's left with?* A pot.
- -So now it must find meaning in its **potness**, instead of in the coffee that was created to make.
- **And so now all meaning becomes the color of my pot,**
- -the size of my pot,
- -the shape of my pot,
- -everything is all about the pot now.
- **Some really searched for meaning in the coffee pots, they realize what they are made for they filled themselves with water and coffee.**
- -But Without electricity, there they sit-- dead, cold and no coffee.
- ***You get what I'm saying here?***
- -The meaning of a coffeemaker's life is coffee.
- -If it is not making coffee then there is no point to its existence.
- **When man declared their independence from God, He walked away from his supply of life,**
- -He walked away from the source of electricity and so he is left with this container which is in the Scripture is called "**flesh.**"
- **And so: we, like the pot, try to find meaning in the container, in our flesh, and in relationships with other pots**
- **-All that I have left now is the coffee pot, with no electricity.**
- **The meaning of life is turned inward to this frail weak mortal container,**
- -which was created to contain and display the will of God,
- -but there is nothing there.
- **So, we try to find it in fashion**
- -houses,
- -hobbies,

- -relationships,
- -The newest car,
- -our career
- -Pleasure, fitness, vacations, notoriety,
- -Something has to give me meaning.
- The color, shape and size of our pot.
- **Using my flesh for that which God never intended is the essence of sin.**
- **(ILL)** It is like seeing a group of boys using a **Stradivarius violin** for a **baseball bat**.
- -God used us to play his life and we're using it as a baseball bat.
- **And so, mankind feels this strange emptiness,**
- -They know that there's no coffee in the pot, but they just can't put their finger on it
- **Sin is all the ways in which we substitute the reason for our being here.**
- **I'm here to be a container for God and to express Him.**
- **If I substitute another meaning for life,**
- -another reason for being here to try and deal with my broken relationship with God, that's sin.
- **And it's worse than that, it's death.**
- -God said, **"in the day that you eat of the tree-- that is, you declare your independence, you shall surely die."**
- **(ILL)** Imagine a **renegade branch** that decides it wants to abandon the vine with its trunk and deep roots.
- ***"Who says I have to stay here with the vine? How old fashion and limiting?"***
- -And so, the revolt of the branch begins.
- **What do we say about this renegade branch?**
- -Naughty? It broke the rules?
- **No, more like foolish. It is suicide. Idiotic.**
- -That branch is destroying itself.
- -It is destroying itself.
- **It doesn't matter what kind of spin the branch puts on his new life,**
- -how inspiring his marketing campaign is about how great his new life is,
- -he will shrivel up and die.
- -No question.
- **That is what Jesus said, sin is like.**
- -To sin is to turn away from the source of life.
- -To reject one's source of nourishment and meaning and go in one's direction.
- **It is to unplug from the source of power and electricity and cease to do what you were created to do.**
- Death is the result—of the things that entered this world as a result of sin
- -worry, strife, anger, addictions, sadness, etc.
- ***What is the meaning of life?***
- -Sin decided that the meaning of life is right here, in my **flesh**; in the **coffee pot**
- -It is finding meaning in all this stuff around me, apart from God.
- **We read at the beginning in Galatians 5 about the works of the flesh,**
- -that is the many different ways people to find meaning in their flesh.

- Paul begins the list with **sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality** which means that we **look for the meaning for our existence in our glands and organs and senses;**
- - in our fantasies and imaginations.
- -All of which is a gift of God,
- **God gave us a beautiful body with gifts, sexual organs, and senses.**
- -He gave us all of that. But we turned it on its head to seek meaning apart from God.
- **Idolatry is seeking meaning, life, or happiness in another person or in something that is created,**
- -when that can only come from God!
- When I put something else there, I'm saying "that will give me the life." "That will give me the meaning; that will give me the happiness" that God says comes for Him alone.
- **Sin is saying "I have to have this person because they will bring meaning to it. I have to own this."**
- **Or they see something on TV or in a catalog and they say "I've got to have that."**
- -I can't live without that position in that company
- -I must have that degree I can't live without that degree
- -I must have that honor.
- **I must I must I must. Because that, whatever that is or whoever that is, that will fulfill me give me the meaning my existence.**
- **Even a worthy goal.** Something that is not sin, it could even be a gift of God.
- -I can try and find meaning from that and it becomes sin to me.
- **The gift of God on my life, my calling, my position, I'm a teacher.**
- -It is a gift of God.
- **I can forget it is a gift from God and make it that which I find my meaning;**
- -that which gives any my joy that which gives me my life.
- **ILL)** Wilderness time; realized I got my identity from my position and Gifting;
- -Susie really liked Jesus a lot and was trying to live for Him; in the wilderness she never fell out of love with Him, But because of my wrong source of Identity I was mean and religious.
- **sorcery, which turns away from God to the demonic.**
- **enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, what is that?**
- -They are reactions when somebody takes from me what I believe to be the meaning of life.
- **Something that I have treasured as my meaning, my purpose, and someone comes along and takes it from me.**
- -The other prophetic ministers gets a bigger crowd than me.
- -That was my meaning in life, and he took it away from me.
- **rivalries, dissensions, divisions, --all the conflicts that arise over what is the meaning of life.**
- -You have husbands and wives who disagree over what is the most important thing,
- -there is a continual conflict because they are figuring out, "**what is the meaning of life?**"
- **envy, Someone else appears to have found the meaning of life and they are happy.**
- -Of Course, we always find someone who seems to have found and I want that.

- -And so we respond with envy
- **drunkenness, orgies**, are Paul's last expressions.
- -That is when you get up.
- **"Drunkenness"** and **"orgies"** is "forget meaning."
- -The meaning of life is become unconsciousness.
- -I want to get into oblivion, I want to unfeel, I want to forget.
- -Or I want to just feel pleasure.
- **How does this affect believers?**
- -You may say, **"Yeah, but I'm born again."**
- You may have noticed that believers do sin after they are saved.
- **For Paul, the "flesh" primarily is describing every part of you—desire, emotion, thought, action—**
- **everything that is not under the control/influence of the Holy Spirit.**
- **Your new nature has no desire to sin;**
- -But that doesn't mean that your body, soul, emotions, habits are totally renewed.
- -That depends on the renewing of your mind.
- **When you were born again, you became dead unto sin,**
- -your old man, your sinful nature died and was crucified with Christ.
- The reason you now feel a desire or drawing toward sin is **not** because your old sin nature compels you to sin;
- **-But you still feel the effects of your old man where your mind is not renewed.**
- **These affects of the unrenewed mind are what Paul calls your flesh.**
- **Romans 6:⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing,**
- Paul calls your flesh the **"body of sin";**
- In **Romans 7:24** he calls it this **"body of death."**
- The picture there is that your sin nature left behind a body,
- -it left behind habits, behaviors, worldviews that are not in line with your new life in Christ.
- -It lives from what it can see, taste, hear, smell and feel rather than the truths of what God's word says and His Spirit is leading us to
- **(ILL)** It left behind an unrenewed mind that is similar to a computer.
- It was programmed by the old nature to lust, get angry, bitter, greedy;
- -and it will continue to function under the old programming until you renew your mind.
- **So, we have all this bad programming,**
- -We have an enemy who is lying to us;
- **-We have bad teaching, "You are an old sinner, saved by grace. You can't do these things that the Bible says you can do."**
- **Because of that, we only manifest the life of God to a very limited degree**
- -to the degree that we renew our minds.
- -Our minds are the limiting factor.
- **(ILL) When first learned to drive;** conscious of what I was doing—where my hands were, checking the mirrors, effort to keep at the correct speed, smooth turns
- -now it is natural, it is like it is my nature to drive

- -My mind has been reprogrammed to drive naturally
- You can mistakenly think that something that comes so naturally is your nature; truth is that it is a taught, acquired trait.
- The reason we now sin is not because it is our nature and we have no choice (that was true before we were born again).
- -the only thing that forces us to live according to the flesh is the unrenewed mind; (Identity)
- -When we act out of the old programming from our old nature
- Not evil on the inside; only reason you lust is you have not programmed your mind.
- **This is tremendous**—there is no demonic power inside of us that we are warring against, **we are set free**.
- The only reason I am not manifesting the life of God in every area of my life is **not** because I am not free,
- -it is because I am ignorant of my freedom, my not is not renewed in that area,
- -I am living according to my flesh in that area.
- Let's take next week and look at what it means to walk in the Spirit,
- -but week's end I want us to see **what sin** is and **what the flesh** is so we can recognize our capacity for it
- You won't fully understand the Good News of Jesus until you understand what He saved us from.

This week I wanted you to see the subtle ways we can, as believers, live in the flesh.

- -How you live apart from divine influence and seek meaning in people or other created things.

HOMEWORK

- Examine yourself (not usually good); look for the ways that you live apart from divine influence
- -How you seek meaning from created things