



"We proclaim Him, warning every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man mature in Christ." Col 1:28

"Killing the Flesh"

Galatians 5:19-26

March 22, 2026

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20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 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 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

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• Paul now draws a contrast between the flesh and the Spirit. "deeds" – works - this is what the flesh produces by one's own efforts, whether a believer or unbeliever.

"evident" – easily seen. Don't have to hunt for them.

They can be divided into 4 categories:

1. Sexual sins.

"immorality" - πορνεία **porneia**- fornication, adultery, incest, prostitution. Very broad term.

"impurity" - ἀκαθαρσία **akatharsia** - uncleanness, impurity.

"sensuality" - ἀσέλγεια **aselgeia** - licentiousness, filthiness.

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

2. Religious sins.

"idolatry" - εἰδωλολατρεία **eidololatreia** - image worship, idolatry.

"sorcery" - φαρμακεία **pharmakeia** - drugs, witchcraft, magic.

3. Relationship sins.

"enmities" - ἔχθρα **echthra** - hatred, hostility.

"strife" - ἔρις **eris** - contention, wrangling, quarreling, debate.

"jealousy" – ζήλος **zelos** - to have a strong feeling against.

"outbursts of anger" – θυμὸς **thumos** - wrath, indignation against, sudden burst of emotions against someone.

"disputes" – ἐριθεία **eritheia** - to provoke anger.

"dissensions" – διχοστασία **dichostasis** - to cause divisions.

"factions" - αἰρέματα **haireomai** - to divide, to prefer.

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“envying” - φθόνος **phthonos** - to have ill-will, to spite, be resentful, to desire what others have.

4. Behavioral sins.

“drunkenness” - μέθη **methe** - intoxicated. Lack of control.

“carousing” - κῶμος **komos** - to let loose, rioting, partying.

“and things like these” – the list could go on and on.

- Paul gives a severe warning. These things are not new.

“practice” - πράσσω **prasso** - to perform repeatedly, habitually.

- Those who live a life-style characterized by habitual sin, with no concern for change or repentance, are unsaved and will not inherit eternal life.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

- In contrast, the outward display of the Holy Spirit in control of the believer’s life will be manifested by 9 “fruits.”

“love” - ἀγάπη **agape** - a choice to love based on the will. Unconditional.

“joy” - χαρά **chara** - a calm delight, does not depend on circumstances. Based on our eternal salvation.

“peace” - εἰρήνη **eirene** - quietness, rest. Unexplainable calm.

“patience” – μακροθυμία **makrothumia** - fire stretched out across the universe.

“kindness” – χρηστότης **chrestotes** - graciousness, good, kind, having a tender concern for others..

“goodness” – ἀγαθωσύνη **agathosune** - virtuous, the state of being good, holiness in action. Moral excellence.

“faithfulness” - πίστις **pistis** - fidelity, loyalty, trustworthiness.

23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

“gentleness” – πραύτης **prautes** - mildness, humility.

“self-control” - ἐγκράτεια **egkrateia** - temperance, exercise restraint.

- Because God desires all men to have all of the fruit of the Spirit, therefore there is no law (restraints) against them.

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The Believer is:

Elect/Chosen (Eph. 1:4)
Foreknown (I Pet. 1:2)
Predestined (Rom. 8:29,30)
Called (I Thes. 5:24)
Redeemed (Rom. 3:24)
Reconciled (Rom. 5:10)
Related to God through Propitiation (Rom. 3:24-26)
Forgiven all sin (Eph. 1:7)
Joined to Christ (Rom. 6:1-10)
Free from the Law (Rom 7:2-6)
Made a child of God (Gal. 3:26)
Adopted (Rom. 8:15,23)
Made acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:6; Col. 1:12)
Made Righteous (Rom. 3:22)
Sanctified (I Cor. 1:30; 6:11)
Crucified with Christ/Dead to sin (Gal. 2:20)
Justified (Rom. 5:1)
Made close to God (Eph. 2:13)
Delivered from the power of darkness (Col. 1:13)
Translated into the Kingdom (Col. 1:13)
Planted on the Rock, Jesus Christ (I Cor. 3:9-15)
A gift from God to Jesus Christ (Jn. 17:6,11,12,20a)
Crucified in Christ (Col. 2:11)
A Priest in the Holy and Royal Priesthood of believers (I Pet. 2:5,9)
Part of a chosen generation, a holy nation, a peculiar people (I Pet. 5:9)
A Heavenly citizen (Phil. 3:20)
Complete in God (Col. 2:9,10)
Glorified (Rom. 8:18)

The Believer's Position in Christ

In the family & household of God (Eph. 2:19)
In the fellowship of the saints (Jn. 17:11,21-23)
In a Heavenly association (Col. 1:27; 3:1)
Within the care of God (Eph. 2:18)
Given access to God (Rom. 5:8-10)
An object of God's love (Jn. 3:16)
An object of God's grace (Eph. 2:7-9)
An object of God's power (Eph. 1:19)
An object of God's faithfulness (Phil. 1:6)
An object of God's peace (Rom. 5:1)
An object of God's comfort (II Thes. 2:16,17)
An object of God's intercession (Rom. 8:26)
God's inheritance (Eph. 1:18)
Given the inheritance of God Himself (I Pet. 1:4)
Given light in the Lord (II Cor. 4:6)
United to the Father, the Son, & the Holy Spirit (I Thes. 1:1)
Blessed with the earnest or first-fruits of the Spirit (Eph. 1:14)
Born of the Spirit (Jn. 3:6)
Baptized in the Spirit (I Cor. 12:13)
Inebriated with the Spirit (Rom. 8:9)
Sealed by the Spirit (II Cor 1:22)
Blessed with every spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3)
Perfected forever (Heb. 10:14)

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- If you are a believer, positionally your flesh is dead. Experimentally it is not.
- One of the 50 things that happened to you at salvation . . .

Gal 2:20

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

"crucified" – to execute (kill, put to death) the flesh.

Rom 6:11

11 Even so consider yourselves to be **dead to sin**, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Rom 6:3-7

3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,

6 knowing this, that our old self was **crucified** with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; 7 for he who has died is freed from sin.

*** At your baptism, say goodbye to your old self.**

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

- If we draw our spiritual life from the Spirit, then let's walk by the Spirit.
- That means throwing the control of my life over to Him by obeying His Word moment by moment.
- 2 passages – 1 O.T., 1 N.T. . . .

Ps 1:1-3

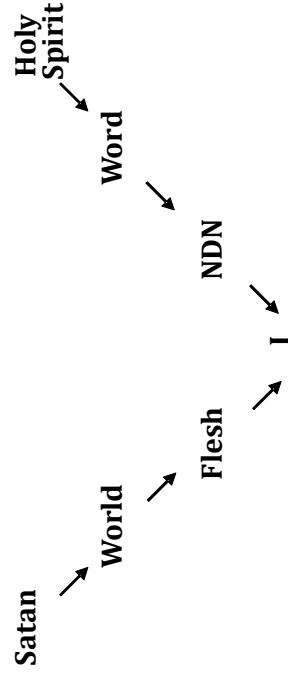
1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
2 But **his delight is in the law** of the Lord,
And **in His law he meditates day and night**.
3 He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its **fruit** in its season
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Eph 5:18-21

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit**,
19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;
21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.
Col 3:16-17
16 **Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you**, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

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- So, after saying all of this, Paul appeals to the believers to stop the behavior of the flesh produced by legalism.
- Let's look at a legalist . . .

A Legalist

Def. "A legalist is one who relies on his own performance to merit favor before God, rather than relying on faith in what Christ has done, and relying on the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. He puts as much authority in extra Biblical moral standards, rules, and regulations, as he does in Biblical mandates."

Stage I Legalism - performance to obtain one's salvation.

Stage II Legalism - performance to keep one's salvation.

Galatians 2:16

"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: **for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.**"

Philippians 3:9

"And be found in him, **not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law**, but that which is through the **faith** of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by **faith**."

Characteristics of Legalists:

1. Contentious.
2. Frustration in trying to attain holiness.
3. Controlling.
4. Judgmental towards others.
5. Lack of patience towards the spiritual growth of others.
6. Experiences emotional highs and lows based on their performance.
7. Makes a list of rules, laws, or standards to which they already conform.
8. Are only concerned about your outward behavior to the extent that it conforms with theirs.
9. Are not usually candidates for "stumbling" because of the adherence and attention they give to their strict moral standards.
10. Are filled with pride and not humility.

Application

1. Walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit produce totally different results.
2. Let's not shy away from using the term, "the flesh", to describe the source of sinful behavior.
3. The Holy Spirit is the key to your spiritual growth.
4. 2 things are required of us – 1. To know the Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit. 2. To yield to the Holy Spirit's control.
5. Every time you yield and are controlled by the Holy Spirit, you kill the flesh.