

# LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

## “THE PROBLEM OF THE FLESH”

- PART I

### Introduction:

- Jesus told His disciples, “...*the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*” Matthew 26:41
- Jesus also said in John 6:63 that the spirit quickeneth, but the flesh profits nothing.
- In the Bible, the flesh is identified as being that part of you that is unregenerate and at enmity with God. In your flesh is said to dwell the **law** of sin.
- In this message, we will study God’s Word and discover the Christian’s relationship to the flesh, why we walk after the flesh, what happens when we walk after the flesh, and how we overcome the flesh.

### The Christian’s *identity* is no longer associated with the flesh.

- In Romans 7:18, it is clear that the flesh is still **present**, but it no longer is the Christian’s identity.
- Colossians 2:11-13 explains why this is true.
  1. The law of sin in your flesh has now been **cut** off from your spirit (where God dwells.)
  2. You are no longer identified with that law of sin that once characterized you, but you are identified **eternally** in Christ.
    - “*And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*”  
**Galatians 5:24**

**The flesh cannot enslave the Christian unless the Christian *chooses* to follow the flesh.**

- Before salvation, you were **dead** in sins, and the flesh enslaved you completely.
- Ephesians 2:1-3 reveals clearly the **bondage** that you were in. The law of sin and death reigned in your flesh.
- But at salvation, a **new** law was introduced - the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:2
  - This new law supersedes the **old** law of sin and death.
- But, the Christian can willingly choose to **follow** after the flesh and submit to that old law of sin and death. Romans 8:1, 4, 13; 6:13

- The flesh cannot enslave us. Only by our **choice** can the fleshly law of sin and death have any influence over us.