

LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

“THE PROBLEM OF THE FLESH”

- PART 4

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.

- 1. The Christian's *identity* is no longer associated with the flesh.**
- 2. The flesh cannot enslave the Christian unless the Christian *chooses* to follow the flesh.**
- 3. Walking in the flesh *always* brings dreadful consequences.**
- 4. A fleshly walk may look *good* to others, but *never* to God.**

5. The only answer to the problem of the flesh is to *walk* in the Spirit.

- If you are saved, you have Christ's Spirit living **in you** (Romans 8:9-11). But, when it comes to overcoming the problem of the flesh, the Bible talks about **walking** in the Spirit. Romans 8:1, 4; Galatians 5:16
- Just because you **have** the Holy Spirit does not mean that you are **walking** in the Spirit. Galatians 5:25; cf. Ephesians 5:18
- What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?
 - As the believer yields himself to Christ and rests in Him (depending on Him completely), he is **filled** (controlled) by Christ's Spirit. Colossians 2:6-7
- Walking in the Spirit means that you are living a life that relies on Christ as your **source** of life and strength.
- This is what Paul was trying to get the Galatians to see in Galatians 3:1-3.
 - Christ isn't simply **in** your life - He **is** your life!

- Walking in the Spirit means that you are not focused on your sin or the law or religious rules or religious performance - your focus is **Christ** alone.
- *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.
When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Colossians 3:1-4*