

Galatians

Chapter 5

Verses 19-21

1. Paul has explained that there are two ways to live life for the Christian:
 - Walking in the Spirit
 - Following the lusts of the flesh
2. When a person attempts to live the Christian life by the law instead of by faith, Paul shows us the result in verses 19-21. Paul calls this list the "works of the flesh."
3. Verse 19 deals primarily with sexual sins.
 - Lasciviousness is not a word we use a lot today. It carries the idea of sexual perversion. It is translated "filthy conversation" in **2 Peter 2:7**.
 - Christians can find themselves in bondage to every kind of sexual sin. **2 Corinthians 12:21 (Illustration: Lot in 2 Peter 2:6-8)**
 - Sex is a holy and wonderful gift from God when two Spirit-filled believers are living in the beauty of the marriage covenant, but the flesh twists and distorts it and makes it an unclean thing.
4. Verse 20 deals more with sins of the heart.
 - Witchcraft is from the Greek word that we get our English word "pharmacy." It means "medication, magic." It is translated "sorceries" in **Revelation 9:21, 18:23**.
 - "Hatred" – hostility (**Proverbs 10:12**)
 - "Variance" - a quarrel (also translated in other places as "contention, debate, strife")
 - "Emulation" - malice towards another person, translated as "envying" in **James 3:14, 16**
 - "Seditions" - disunion, dissension, division
 - "Heresies" - this word carries the ideal of choosing a side, dividing along party lines
 - "Envyings" - ill will, spite
 - These sins not only destroy the person who harbors them, but they also destroy harmony in the home, the workplace, and the church. They are wicked and destructive and are the works of the flesh. As we will see, they are the opposites of the fruit of the Spirit.
 - Again, Christians can find themselves in bondage to all of these sins. **1 Corinthians 3:3**
5. In verse 21 Paul also mentions the sins of murder, drunkenness and revellings (living a wild party life).
6. Here's the point: nothing good can come from the works of our flesh.
 - Paul said that in our flesh dwells no good thing. If this is the case, then nothing good can come from it.
 - Walking after the flesh, at its core, is self-reliance. We do not depend or rely on Christ, but decide that we will do things our way in our own power and strength.

- Here we see the dreadful result of such an arrogant spirit. This list is a testimony to what **we** can produce apart from Christ.
 - The sad part is that these works of the flesh many times characterize Christian lives, Christian homes, Christian marriages, and Christian churches.
 - The works listed in these verses regularly surface and dominate lives and families.
 - For the Christian, it doesn't have to be this way. As we will see, if we will just yield to the Spirit of Christ within, our lives and homes can be filled with the sweet and precious fruit of the Spirit.
7. Paul had taught the Galatians that people who constantly live their life by the works of the flesh shall not inherit the kingdom of God.
 - God's kingdom speaks of His rule, authority, and power. **1 Corinthians 15:24**
 - Where does God rule and reign today? Where is the kingdom of God today?
 - Paul taught that God's kingdom is manifested in believer's hearts today.
Romans 14:17
 - God's kingdom is not a physical rule over the earth, but a spiritual rule in the believer's heart. God's kingdom (rule) is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. Where is the Holy Ghost? In the believer.
 - God's kingdom is a spiritual manifestation of His Holy Spirit power working in the believer. **1 Corinthians 4:20**
 8. So, Paul is not saying if you do any of these sins you can't go to heaven. This is not what the verse says. To inherit the kingdom of God is to possess God's Spirit and be filled with the fruit of the Spirit.
 9. We cannot obtain the kingdom (rule) of God in our lives when we are walking after the flesh. This is the point Paul is making.
 10. This is why verse 22 begins with, "**But** the fruit of the Spirit is..."