

WHAT DOES A CHRISTIAN LOOK LIKE?

(Galatians 5)

I once had an esteemed professor who would often say, “in three ways we belong to the Lord. He made us, He saved us, and He is sanctifying us.” What a wonderful reality this is for us as Christians, for we belong to Him. If you know Christ as your Savior, you are being prepared for heaven. This is called sanctification...it is the life-long process of being made into the likeness of Christ. This is God’s work in you. There are many who claim to know Christ but live life in a pattern of sin. There are others who claim to know Christ and commit sin, even gross sin, and fear that they are lost. Paul helps us with these issues.

TWO CONTRASTING INFLUENCES PRODUCING VERY DIFFERENT RESULTS REVEALING OUR TRUE SPIRITUAL CONDITION.

I. The Works Of The Flesh: These Are The Deeds Produced By Our Own Unregenerate Nature. (5:16-21)

This is what we do by nature. The NIV calls this “the sinful nature.” KJV calls this “the flesh.”

- A. Jesus made clear that our basic problem is not with what is outside of us, but is within. (Mark 7:20-23) We are born spiritually dead and lost in sin, and sin is what sinners do. The works of the flesh characterize the life pattern of a lost man or woman.
- B. Paul tells of the struggle between the flesh and the Spirit, and that victory is only found as we walk in the Spirit. This means that we live under the Spirit’s influence and control. Obedience.
- C. Paul categorizes the works of the flesh in 3 general areas:
 1. Sexual sins. (v.19)
sexual immorality, which is fornication. This is a general word describing all kinds of sensual sins. Its Greek word is porneia.
impurity...means to be unclean. This here points to moral defilement.
debauchery...points to an unrestrained sexual indulgence, and having no shame.
 2. Man-made Religious sins. (v.20)
idolatry...is the worship of idols, or anything that is first place in one’s life.
...Man is made to worship. He will do it rightly or in an evil way.
witchcraft...the word is pharmakeia...we get drugs from this. It was the practice of sorcery that used mind altering drugs. This is the occult/black magic.
 3. Human relationships, which are defiled by the sins listed. (vv.20b-21)
These include: hated, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness and orgies(carousing).
