

**Faith Fellowship St. Pete**  
**Cross Training April 21,2020**  
**Galatians 5:16-21**  
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**Galatians 5:13** You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

**NKJV 16** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Paul knew that we are saved by God's grace and Jesus' work alone, not by what we have done, are doing, or promise to do. But he also knew that those who *are saved* by God's grace have a high moral obligation to fulfill – not to *earn* salvation, but in *gratitude* for salvation, and in *simple consistency* with who we are in Jesus.

This involves spiritual disciplines like prayer, fellowship, fasting, bible study, etc. These are means of grace and surrender.

Spirit and flesh are at war. ***“you are not to do whatever you want”***

We are not motivated by fear or a futile effort at self-righteousness, but rather by Love for Jesus. We've been freed to love!

**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law:** The antidote to the flesh is not found in the law, but in the Spirit – and if **you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law**. You don't need to be, because you fulfill the will of God through the *inner influence* of the Holy Spirit instead of the *outer influence* of the law of God.

**Galatians 5:19** Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Adultery, fornication, uncleanness... lewdness: **These are all *sensual* sins, relating to sex**. We are often appalled at the sexual immorality of our day, but we should remember that the times Paul wrote in were as bad if not worse. “There is ample evidence to show that the sexual life of the Greco-Roman world at the time of the New Testament was sheer chaos. Such evidence has come not from Christian writers but from pagans who were disgusted with the unspeakable sexual immorality.” (Fung)

**adultery/fornication *porneia*** - illicit sexual intercourse, includes adultery and ANY sex outside of marriage as defined by God

**uncleanness**- physical or moral uncleanness

**lewdness**- unbridled lust, excess, absence of restraint, indecency

**Idolatry... sorcery**: These are *religious* sins. They are sins of worship, and remind us that it isn't only tragic to worship the wrong God, or seek the wrong spiritual power – it is *sinful* as well.

**idolatry** – the worship of false Gods

**witchcraft- *pharmakeia***; drug abuse, sorcery, the occult, magic

Hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envies... murders: **These are each “people” sins**. They are sins that primarily express themselves in how we treat others. God cares about our sexual and moral purity, and He cares about the purity of our religion and worship. But He also passionately cares about how we treat one another. The fact that Paul uses more words to describe these *interpersonal* sins shows how important our treatment of each other is to God.

**hatred** - enmity, the opposite of ***agape***

**contentions** - strife, quarrel, rivalry, contentions

**jealousies** - envying

**outburst of wrath** - hot anger, wrath, outbursts, sometimes related to wine and drunkenness in scripture

**selfish ambition** - strife, a divisive spirit, a desire to put oneself forward

**dissensions** - divisiveness, division

**heresies** - an opinion that leads to the formation of competing groups

**envies** - is the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others

**murders** - slaughters

Drunkenness... revelries: **These can be thought of as *social* sins – sins that are often committed in the company of other people**. The fact that Paul includes these

two sins in his list shows that they were **works of the flesh** that the Galatian Christians had to be on guard against. [Romans 13:12-13](#) lists **drunkenness** and **revelries** as part of the Christians' past of darkness that now need to be cast off as we walk in the light.

**drunkenness** – personal intoxication

**revelries** - used generally of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted until late at night and indulge in revelry

These are specific sins that will hinder our walk and grieve the Spirit of God. As application, I encourage you to review this list with an open, humble heart. If there are any of these sins in your life, run to the Cross. Don't hesitate. Confess, repent and receive by faith the renewing of our Lord, who has born the full penalty of our sins.