

II Corinthians: Lesson #33: Works of the - Flesh Fruit of the Spirit Notes for Parents to Study with Their Children For Wednesday, August 20th

Read Gal. 5:13-5:26 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: Gal. 5:16 “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

The Law is Fulfilled by Love

- Paul makes the point that if we really love like God commands we would do all the most important requirements of the Law of Moses.
- Jesus had something like that in Matt. 22:35-40

Flesh and Spirit

- Let's learn about two words that are found a lot in Scripture and have a lot to do with this lesson: flesh and Spirit
- **Flesh** can mean your skin or body, but in this lesson it is talking about the way you live. Living a fleshly way means living just for the things you want to do. It is a selfish way to act because it thinks more about self than God or others. Living this way almost always causes someone to do very sinful things.
- **Spirit** reminds us both of our spirit and the Holy Spirit. Our spirit is our soul, the person we are on the inside. Our spirit is that part of us that was made in God's image. The Holy Spirit gave us the Bible. The Holy Spirit through God's Word teaches us how to live. You might say our spirit has to follow what the Holy Spirit says. The Holy Spirit teaches our spirit to live unselfishly, to live for God, to love others, to care more about what's good for our soul than what's our body.
- Since flesh lives to please itself and spirit lives to please God, those two don't get along very well.
- Paul tells us we have to walk by the Spirit and not live according to the flesh.

The Works of the Flesh and the Fruit of the Spirit

- In the simplified explanation of the text, the works of the flesh and the fruit of the spirit are listed with a brief explanation of what those are.
- Read over the list and discuss both categories and what they mean.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

Liberty from the Law Does Not Mean Liberty from Doing Right

5:13 Brethren, you have been called to liberty from the Law of Moses, but don't let that liberty take you into an opportunity to behave in a fleshly way, but through love serve one another.

14 For all the Law can be fulfilled in one sentence: You shall love your neighbor like you would yourself.

15 But if you bite and eat up one another, be careful or else you'll all be consumed by each other.

16 Here's what I want to teach you: Walk in the Spirit will not bring about fleshly behavior.

17 For fleshly behavior will promote desires that go against things of the Spirit. And when we are walking by the Spirit it will go against fleshly conduct. Flesh and Spirit oppose each other and prevent you from doing what you want to.

18 Now if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law of Moses.

Works of the Flesh

19-21 But the works of the flesh are easy to see – things like:

Adultery – violation of your marriage covenant or someone else's marriage covenant.

Fornication – unlawful sexual activity

Uncleanness – filthy behavior in general

Lasciviousness – indecent behavior, does not show restraint, shows no sense of shame for what they are doing

Idolatry – worshipping false gods and using images

Sorcery – the use of magic, drugs and charms to control people and events

Hatred – hating others, being enemies to others

Contentions – arguing, contentious, strife

Jealousies – envious over what others have and unhappiness that you don't have it

Wrath – heated anger

Selfish ambitions – rivalry, a desire to win followers over to your side, politicking

Dissensions – those who create divisions, literally it means to stand apart

Heresies – ideas, doctrines, and ways that men choose that God did not choose

Envy – unhappy because others are prospering or honored

Murders – the unjust, unlawful taking of life

Drunkenness – intoxication, being under control of alcohol or drugs

Revelries – wild behavior often associated with drunkenness

And things like these – things that are forms of these sins or are closely connected with them, and sins not mentioned here.

I've told you before about these kind of things that those who practice them will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Fruit of the Spirit

22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is:

Love – the unselfish sacrificial love that imitates God's love

Joy – gladness over what we have in the Lord no matter what we may face in life

Peace – the feeling that "it is well with my soul", that I am at peace with God and strive to be at peace with others

Longsuffering – enduring, being patient and steadfast, being slow to respond with anger.

Kindness – good, gracious, easy to deal with

Goodness – an upright person in their heart and life

Faith – conviction that God's Word is truth and must be applied

Gentleness – meek, mild-tempered, humble, yielding to God’s will and putting others before self

Self-control – the ability to keep your thoughts and actions under control

There is no Law against conduct like this.

24 When you belong to Christ, you have agreed to crucify fleshliness – a mindset that pushes us to do evil and crave after things that are sinful.

25 If we really live in the Spirit, then let’s also walk in the Spirit.

26 Let’s don’t become conceited and eager for praise and honor. Let’s don’t provoke each other. And let’s don’t envy each other.