

Combat Ready
Galatians 5:16-21

Introduction

1. You have been equipped to fight in this daily war
 - A. You have been equipped to win the war.
2. We must understand.
 - A. Every day we wake up, we step into a battle zone.
 - B. It is The Flesh Vs. The Spirit.
3. Our enemy, Satan.
 - A. His desire is to steal, kill, & destroy (Jn. 10:10).
4. As humans we are susceptible to giving into the flesh.
 - A. We must understand this is our battlefield.
 - B. Our enemy is constantly launching attacks on us.
 - 1) Eph. 2:2-3

We conquer the lust of the flesh by the Holy Spirit of God. Vs. 16

1. The only way a believer keeps from falling into our fleshly desires is to:

Walk in the Spirit!

1. Paul didn't say, sometime walk in the Spirit.
 - A. He said "Walk in the Spirit.
 - B. It is a daily application.
 - C. A continuous walk.
 - 1) A conscious deliberate choice to walk in God's Spirit.
2. The implication is "walking around"

As you walk around the believer consciously chooses to seek the direction of the Holy Spirit.

It is a moment-by-moment dependency allowing Christ to direct your step.

Psalm 37:23

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Paul wants us to understand – ***No person has the power within themselves to control the lusts of his flesh.***

Four reasons why our own strength cannot overcome the flesh.

1. ***The flesh fights for dominance (vs. 16).***
2. ***The flesh is contrary to the Spirit (vs. 17).***
3. ***The flesh prevents a person from doing what is right or necessary (vs. 17)***
4. ***The flesh fails to keep the law (vs. 18).***

Fleshly works. Vs. 19-21

Important fact – The flesh is not sinful!

1. ***The flesh or human body is given by God.***
 - A. It is for God's use.
 - B. When a person accepts Christ, our bodies become a temple of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1

1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2. ***The works of the flesh are the fruit of indwelling sin.***
 - A. ***Sin originates in the heart not in the flesh.***

Four Divisions of Sinful Deeds

Sexual Sin

1. **Adultery** – sexual unfaithfulness to husband and wife.
2. **Fornication** – broad word including all forms of *immoral & sexual acts*.
3. **Uncleanness** – moral impurity.
4. **Lasciviousness** – indecency, shamelessness.

Sins of False Worship

1. **Idolatry** – worship of idols – mental or images.
2. **Witchcraft** – sorcery

Sins of Broken Personal Relationship

1. **Hatred** – holding hostility toward others.
A. A deep hatred toward someone.
2. **Variance** – *strife, discord, fighting, etc.*
A. Fighting with others.
3. **Emulations** – *jealousy, desiring what others have.*
4. **Wrath** – *bursts of anger, quick tempered, explosive reactions.*
5. **Strife** – *conflict*
6. **Seditions** – *division, rebellion, standing against others.*
7. **Heresies** – *rejecting the fundamental beliefs of God.*
8. **Envy** – *want what others have and begrudge them.*
9. **Murders**

Sin of Excess

1. **Drunkenness**
2. **Revelings** – *uncontrolled behavior to please self.*

1. Preacher that must mean no one is right with God.
A. Wrong
2. We all can identify with this list.
A. Why? You are still in the flesh.
3. Question – when you stumble and fall in that area are you convicted of your sin.
A. Yes – God’s spirit is calling you to turn to Him.
B. No – we need to evaluate our relationship with Jesus.
4. This passage helps me with a struggle I’ve had for years.
A. A person who says they are saved yet their life doesn’t reflect salvation.

Vs. 21 - Practice – a willful continuation in fleshy deeds.

1. Willfully living in the practice of the flesh disqualifies us from God’s eternal promise.
2. When one chooses to live a lifestyle that reflects the manifestation of the flesh there has been no transformation of heart.
3. One may have knowledge of God, but their heart has never been changed by God.