

Sunday, October 15, 2023—Galatians 5:17-18 Led Of The Spirit Not Under The Law

Galatians 5:17

- **For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**
- The word “lusteth” means to greatly desire.
- The English word “flesh” is a translation of the Greek word *sarx*.
 - “Flesh refers to the old ways or patterns by which you have attempted to get all your needs supplied instead of seeking Christ first and trusting him to meet your needs.” (Gillham, 21)
 - “. . . God had not plan for joining His Holy Spirit to any person’s old sin nature. He had no plan to give birth to spiritual Siamese twins who are half sprit-child of Satan through Adam and half spirit-child of God through Christ. . . God would never set you for guaranteed failure by making you a “house divided against yourself.” I’ll agree tat my experienced and my feelings at times “tell” me I am house divided, but since God would never set me up for certain failure, I must search His Word to find another cause for my strife within. . . would God who taught all of the foregoing truths deliberately “set up” the Christian by giving him two conflicting identities, one loyal to God and the other equally loyal to Satan? No! Lost people have one master (Satan), not two. Christians also have one master (God), not two. But your former master constantly tempts and badgers you to submit to him again.” (Gillham, 91-92)
 - “God plan was to execute the rebellious man and give birth to a new spirit-creation, one who adores Him and has His law of love written on his heart and mind. But He placed his new man into the same old earthsuit. It has the same old brain with the same old, green highways in it. . . That is going to cause a problem, because it’s going to be through those old, green highways that the Evil One, through the power of sin, will try to control the new man and get him to dance to the old tune.

The new man is born of Christ’s resurrection from the grave. The power of sin is now limited to the body. Flesh is a function of the brain.” (Gillham, 99)

- The Greek word translated “contrary” means to lie opposite. Two contrary forces are vying for control of your life as a believer.
- Once again, due to this absolute opposition between what the Spirit wants and what the flesh wants, it is impossible to please both the Spirit and the flesh at the same time.
- The result is that we cannot do the things that we would.
- Positionally, in the eyes of God, the believer has been freed from sin. However, experientially, we are not yet free from sin. We still live in a body of sinful flesh.

- Romans 7:8
- Rom. 7:14—the flesh needs a new master (i.e. our renewed mind)
- Rom. 7:23—the law of sin resides in our members.
- While we are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, until the day of redemption we reside in a carnal physical body, controlled by physical processes and impulses in our physical brain. The physical, carnal, part of us has been sold to the master of sin, the sinful condition. Upon salvation we have been given an undefiled spirit that can relate to God. The Holy Spirit within us understands and desires obedience to “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:2).
 - The renewed mind is to be the new master of the carnal brain and transform it into a servant of righteousness.
- The believer is still tempted through the flesh i.e., the residual stinking thinking of the old man. However, because the Spirit of God indwells the believer, and the believer now belongs to Christ, there is now an internal battle in your inner man that did not exist before one believed the gospel.
- As saints we don’t have to let our deceptive brain message run our lives. WE ARE NOT OUR BRAINS!
 - *Deceptive Brain Message*—any false or inaccurate thought or any unhelpful or distracting impulse, urge, or desire that takes you away from your true identity of who you are in Christ.
- Deceptive brain messages (thoughts, urges, desires)—Uncomfortable physical or emotional sensations (including cravings)—Habitual unhealthy responses—Momentary relief of distress. (Schwartz & Gladding, 11)
 - This cycle is how habits and addictions are formed. Walking this pathway repeatedly engrains it into our brains.
- Romans 8:26-27—Meanwhile, God the Holy Spirit is constantly advocating for God’s truth in our lives. Since we have been circumcised with the circumcision made without hands and cut away from the body of sins of the flesh, we no longer need to be slaves to our deceptive brain messages.

Galatians 5:18

- **But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.**
- Notice the connection in this passage between the work of the flesh and the Law.

- What does the Law require? The performance of your flesh. What can we conclude then about following the Law? Following the Law will make you more likely to fulfill the works of the flesh.
 - Talk about the brain scans of the Catholic Nun & the Buddhist Monk. The flesh likes religion.
- Objective Standard: the Holy Spirit leads no believer today to follow the Law. If you find yourself operating in your life with any performance-based system, it is not God the Holy Spirit doing that, it's your flesh. In short, it's you.