

Theme: The Spirit enables us to live a Christ-like life, helping us to overcome the flesh in a way the law never could.

I. Intro – Busy or Sinning!

- A. Conversation between Phil B. & pastor
- B. Keep 'em busy or they are out there sinning!
- C. How do we overcome sin? Law?
- D. Can a Christian live in continual sin?

II. Two Ways of Life

- A. The vice and virtue lists
 - 1. Common in antiquity
 - 2. These reflect God's character – not culture
 - 3. Lists are representative – not exhaustive
 - 4. Describing two mutually exclusive ways of life
- B. Two sources for patterns of life: flesh & Spirit
 - 1. The source of evil: the flesh/sinful nature
 - a. Flesh in these verses – desires & acts
 - b. Flesh – produces evil living
 - 2. The source of good: the Holy Spirit
 - a. Spirit in these verses – live, led, fruit, step

- b. Spirit produces righteous living

III. The Works of the Flesh

- A. Flesh – human w/ Satan in rebellion against God
 - 1. Christians believe body is good – not Gnostics
 - 2. Many sins in list do not even require body
 - 3. Much deeper than just our body – Rom 8:7-8
- B. Rebellious flesh produces evil actions & attitudes
 - 1. A litany of evil **actions** and **attitudes**
 - 2. Objective evil – not just culture
 - a. Sexual sins accepted in GR world
 - b. Paul emphasizes these against culture
 - c. 19, Rom 13:13; 1 Cor 6:9; Eph 5:3-7; Col 3:5-6
 - 3. Ways humans express their rebellion to God

IV. The Remedy to the Flesh: the Spirit

- A. What Will Not Work: Law (or Asceticism)
 - 1. Law - We are not under law (v 18; Rom 8:3-4)
 - 2. Asceticism – Col 2:20-23
- B. The Spirit sets us free from the flesh

4. Our flesh died with Christ (v24; 2:20; Rom 8:3-4)
5. Those receiving Spirit will NOT practice sin (16)
6. Not perfection – but will not practice (v19-21)
7. Spirit produces new fruit w/o law (v22-23)

V. Conclusion – Our Glorious Life In Christ

- A. Our justification is by faith alone
 1. We are not saved by our efforts
 2. We are saved only through faith
 3. Christ has saved us from God's wrath!
- B. Our experience of Christ and the Spirit radically change us
 1. When we turn to Christ we are born again
 2. We are now able to live for him – free from sin
 3. He changes us – but we must walk with Him
- C. Baptism – symbol and grace of new life in Christ

Walking By the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-26

April 10, 2005

Water baptisms

Based on Romans 8:11

7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.
Romans 8:7-8

13 Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in **orgies** and drunkenness, not in **sexual immorality** and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.
Romans 13:13

9 Do you not know that the **wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God**? Do not be deceived: Neither the **sexually immoral** nor idolaters nor **adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders**
1 Corinthians 6:9

3 **But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity**, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: **No immoral, impure or greedy person-- such a man is an idolater-- has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.** 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for **because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.** 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.
Ephesians 5:3-7

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: **sexual immorality, impurity, lust**, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 **Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.**
Colossians 3:5-6

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. Galatians 5:18

3 For what **the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature**, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.
Romans 8:3-4

20 Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: 21 **"Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?** 22 These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their **harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.**
Colossians 2:20-23

3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, **God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man** to be a sin offering. And so **he condemned sin in sinful man**, 4 **in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us**, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.
Romans 8:3-4