

## Galatians 5:15-21

**15-18.** But if you **BITE and DEVOUR one another**, BEWARE lest you be consumed by one another! I say then: "**Walk in the Spirit, and you shall NOT fulfill the LUST of the FLESH.** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary (against, opposite) to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

- **James 3:14-16** "But if you have bitter \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_-seeking in your \_\_\_\_\_, do not boast and \_\_\_\_\_ against the \_\_\_\_\_. This wisdom does \_\_\_\_\_ descend from above, but is earthly, \_\_\_\_\_, demonic. For where \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_-seeking exist, confusion and every \_\_\_\_\_ thing will be there."

**Definition: "If you BITE and DEVOUR one another"** - Paul is getting ready to go into a great teaching on **the DIFFERENCE between "walking in the Spirit" or "being LED by the Spirit" and "walking after the lusts of our flesh."** The "biting and devouring one another" is part of the "lusts of the flesh" - typical behavior for people who are living according to their old sin nature and "flesh" rather than living according to God's Holy Spirit. If you've been a Christian for any length of time, and been to one or more churches, **you KNOW that NOT all of the people in those churches are walking according to the Holy Spirit!** Some of them may be true Christians, but **they are still letting the "LUSTS of their FLESH" rule and direct their lives, instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to RULE and DIRECT their lives.** Many churches have been torn apart and ruined (biting, devouring and consuming one another") by so-called Christians and members of their church who are being ruled and governed by their FLESH. It is the opposite of being "filled with the Spirit" and letting the Holy Spirit guide and direct them.

- **James 4:1-2** "Where do \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ come from among you? Do they not come from your \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ in your members? You \_\_\_\_\_ and do not have. You \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and cannot obtain. You \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Yet you do not have because you do not ask."
- **Romans 7:23** "But I see another law in my \_\_\_\_\_, **WARRING (lusting)** \_\_\_\_\_ the law of my mind, and bringing me into \_\_\_\_\_ to the law of \_\_\_\_\_ which is in my \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Romans 6:13** "And do not \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves to \_\_\_\_\_ as being alive from the dead, and your \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ of righteousness to God."

**Definition: "Your DESIRES for PLEASURE that WAR"** - We are too quick to blame the devil for our problems many times, **rather than examining ourselves to see what EVIL still LURKS in our own SOULS and in our FLESH - the physical body.** When James speaks about the "**DESIRES for PLEASURE that WAR in your members**" he is speaking about leftovers and hangovers from our old sin nature that still reside in our fleshly body, and in our minds, if we do not renew our minds with the word of God. Here in Galatians, Paul calls it "the flesh lusting against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh" - It is a **constant BATTLE or WAR to keep the flesh from being in control.** Yes, the devil certainly does know our weak points and what "buttons to push" in order to tempt us, and sometimes these temptations are the "fiery darts of the evil one" (Eph. 6:16), and we must extinguish them by putting up the "shield of faith." Other times, it is just that **we are ALLOWING our CARNAL MIND and FLESHLY emotions to carry us away** (see Isaiah 64:6 - "our iniquities,

like the wind, CARRY US AWAY"). Iniquity means DOING OUR OWN WILL, or GOING OUR OWN WAY (see Isaiah 53:6). **The way to fight this is to SUBMIT your mind, will and emotions to God, and present your BODY to Him** as a living sacrifice. **The TRANSFORMATION in your life** will come as your mind is renewed with the word of God, and your body is surrendered to the Lord completely.

- **I Peter 2:11** "Beloved, I \_\_\_\_\_ you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_ against the \_\_\_\_\_."
- **II Corinthians 10:3-5** "For though we walk in the \_\_\_\_\_, we do not \_\_\_\_\_ according to the flesh. For the weapons of our \_\_\_\_\_ are not carnal (merely human), but \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ for pulling down of strongholds; casting down arguments (imagination), and every high thing that exalts itself \_\_\_\_\_ the knowledge of God, bringing every \_\_\_\_\_ into captivity (taking control of) to the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Romans 12:1-2** "I beseech you (beg you) therefore brethren, by the mercies of God, that you \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice, \_\_\_\_\_ and acceptable to \_\_\_\_\_, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_ that you may prove what is that \_\_\_\_\_ and acceptable and \_\_\_\_\_ will of God."

**Definition: "If you have BITTER ENVY and SELF-SEEKING in your hearts "** - A carnal, fleshly, sensual person (one being controlled by the flesh rather than the Spirit of God), will exhibit these evil qualities, which can even be, at times, demonic. These are hindrances to the filling of the Holy Spirit and producing His fruit in your life. If your heart and mind are filled with **ENVY and SELF-SEEKING**, anxiety, anger, fear, doubt, bitterness, pride, or any other "works" or "lusts of the flesh" (Galatians 5:14-21), those attitudes will control you. If you allow your heart and mind to be controlled and filled with God's Spirit, the evidence ("fruit") will be seen in your life, and you will be filled with his love, joy, peace, and all the fruit of the Spirit. Your life will exhibit **the fruits of the Spirit which are in essence the character qualities of Jesus Christ**. God's primary desire and plan for our lives is for us to be "conformed to the image of His Son" (Romans 8:29).

- **Romans 8:29** "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."

**Definition: "As SOJOURNERS and PILGRIMS, abstain from FLESHLY LUSTS"** - A sojourner is one who is only here for a temporary visit. Pilgrim is a person who travels about; a wanderer. By calling us "sojourners and pilgrims" it means we are not going to be on this earth forever in our fleshly bodies, but are just passing through, on our way to God's eternal kingdom. To **"abstain from FLESHLY LUSTS" means to STAY AWAY (abstain) from the sins of the flesh, and the things our old nature liked to do before we were born again**. Is it possible for a Christian to fall back into those old fleshly lusts? Of course it is possible, but **it should NOT be where we LIVE and STAY**, because we are only passing through temporarily, and God has better things for us. If you find you have fallen back into some old sins of the flesh, repent, confess it to God (I John 1:9), and He will cleanse and restore you.

- **I Thessalonians 4:3-7** "For this is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, your sanctification: that you should \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_; that each of you should know how to possess (keep) his own vessel (body) in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, not in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take

advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter..... For God did not call us to \_\_\_\_\_ (impurity), but in \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "MEMBERS"** - Individual parts of the BODY, such as HANDS, FEET, TONGUE, EYES, etc. We have the POWER to CHOOSE to let our body parts be used for the glory of God, as **His INSTRUMENTS or TOOLS** of righteousness, or as INSTRUMENTS or TOOLS for sin.

- **Romans 6:19** "I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your \_\_\_\_\_. For just as you presented your \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your \_\_\_\_\_ as slaves of righteousness for \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "You MURDER and COVET"** - Jesus makes it clear that **the underlying ATTITUDE of the HEART carries the same guilt as actual murder**, and we know from facts throughout all of history that anger, jealousy, coveting and envy are all prime motives for murder. The very first murder of all human history, that of **Cain killing his brother Abel, was motivated by PRIDE, selfishness and ENVY (coveting), which later turned into full-blown anger and murder**. God gave him a chance to repent, but Cain refused to come to God in humility by bringing an animal for a blood sacrifice, and instead wanted to "show off" the crops he had grown. Cain was the original one to mirror the words of the song, "**I Did It My Way**"! God refused Cain's sacrifice, but instead of "ruling over" the wrong emotions and passions of his flesh, Cain turned on his brother Abel in ENVY and ANGER, because his brother was obeying God and bringing the correct kind of sacrifice, and murdered him. To covet is to have an unhealthy desire for something that is not yours; either that belongs to someone else, or you are just not content with what you have (see Hebrews 13:5).

- **I Timothy 6:6-11** "But godliness with \_\_\_\_\_ is great \_\_\_\_\_. For we brought \_\_\_\_\_ into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Colossians 3:5** "Therefore put to death your \_\_\_\_\_ which are on the earth; fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and \_\_\_\_\_ which is \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Genesis 4:3-8** "And in the process of time it came to pass that \_\_\_\_\_ brought an offering of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected \_\_\_\_\_ and his offering, but He did \_\_\_\_\_ respect \_\_\_\_\_ and his offering. And \_\_\_\_\_ was very \_\_\_\_\_, and his countenance fell (the expression on his face). So the Lord said to Cain, 'Why are you \_\_\_\_\_? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, \_\_\_\_\_ lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should \_\_\_\_\_ over it.' Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up \_\_\_\_\_ Abel his brother and \_\_\_\_\_ him."
- **Matthew 5:21-22** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not \_\_\_\_\_,' and whoever \_\_\_\_\_ will be in danger of the judgment. But I say to you that whoever is \_\_\_\_\_ with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment....."

**19-21.** Now **the WORKS of the FLESH** are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions (arguments), jealousies, outbursts of wrath (anger), selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries (partying, sexual orgies), 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.**

- **Ephesians 5:3-5** "But \_\_\_\_\_ and all \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_, let it \_\_\_\_\_ even be named among you, as is fitting for \_\_\_\_\_; neither \_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_ talking, nor coarse jesting (dirty jokes), which are not fitting, but rather \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. For this you know, that no \_\_\_\_\_, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an \_\_\_\_\_, has any \_\_\_\_\_ in the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."
- **I Corinthians 5:9-11** "I wrote to you in my epistle (letter) not to keep company with \_\_\_\_\_ sexually immoral people of \_\_\_\_\_ people. Yet I certainly did not mean the \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ with anyone named a brother (calling themselves a Christian), who is a \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_, or an \_\_\_\_\_, or a reviler, or a \_\_\_\_\_, or an \_\_\_\_\_ - not even to eat with such a person."
- **I Corinthians 6:9-11** "Do you not know that the \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_? Do not be \_\_\_\_\_. Neither \_\_\_\_\_, nor \_\_\_\_\_ will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. But you were \_\_\_\_\_, but you were \_\_\_\_\_, but you were \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ and by the \_\_\_\_\_ of our God."

**Definition: "The WORKS of the FLESH"** - These "works of the flesh" are some of the things **our FLESH and MIND are capable of WITHOUT** the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit being in control of our lives. When Jesus said "Without Me you can do nothing" He meant that **we cannot do anything pleasing to God without His power in our lives, and our complete surrender to Him.** Otherwise, we only produce the "works of the flesh", which are some pretty nasty things according to this list.

- **Ephesians 2:3** "Among whom we also all \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, fulfilling the desires of the \_\_\_\_\_ and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, just as others."
- **I Peter 4:3** "For we have spent enough of our \_\_\_\_\_ lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in licentiousness, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_."
- **Romans 13:12-14** "The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, not in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, not in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make \_\_\_\_\_ provision for the \_\_\_\_\_, to fulfill its \_\_\_\_\_."

**Definition: "SUCH were SOME of YOU"** - **We ALL have a PAST life, before we were saved,** that includes sinful behavior. It is only by the BLOOD of JESUS CHRIST that we are forgiven and CLEANSED of those sins. A person who has NOT trusted Jesus Christ for salvation and forgiveness of their sins **has NO PART in the kingdom of God.** Jesus said, "Unless a man is BORN AGAIN, he cannot [even] SEE the Kingdom

of God" (John 3:3). Since God says **He has WASHED us**, and **He has SANCTIFIED us** (made us holy), and **He has JUSTIFIED us** (removed our sins from us) through the working of His Holy Spirit, HOW foolish can we be to go back into sinful behavior as if it didn't mean anything?