

IX- Department of the Pure Gospel Galatians 5:16-26

Galatians 5:16-26 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 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. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Exposition of the Text:

We come to the session on the department of the Pure Gospel. When we were in school we received a grade on department for our behavior. We will see in this session that our good department depends on us being lead by the Spirit of God. We will have bad department if we are lead by or we allow the flesh to rule. At the risk of oversimplification I offer the following outline. I wish to engage our thoughts along the path of right and wrong behavior as a result of our surrender to either the flesh or the Spirit.

Outline: Department of the Pure Gospel: Galatians 5:16-26

A- Warfare of Our Two Natures: Galatians 5:16-18

a- Flesh Lusteth Against Spirit: Galatians 5:17

b- Spirit Lusteth Against the Flesh: Galatians 5:17

B- Acts of Wrong Department: Galatians 5:19-21

1- Adultery: Galatians 5:19

2- Fornication: Galatians 5:19

3- Uncleanness: Galatians 5:19

4- Lasciviousness: Galatians 5:19

5- Idolatry: Galatians 5:20

6- Witchcraft: Galatians 5:20

7- Hatred: Galatians 5:20

8- Variance: Galatians 5:20

9- Emulations: Galatians 5:20

10- Wrath: Galatians 5:20

11- Strife: Galatians 5:20

12- Seditions: Galatians 5:20

13- Heresies: Galatians 5:20

14- Envyings: Galatians 5:21

15- Murders: Galatians 5:21

16- Drunkenness: Galatians 5:21

17- Revellings: Galatians 5:21

18- And Such Like: Galatians 5:21

C- Acts of Right Department: Galatians 5:22-23

- 1- Love: Galatians 5:22
- 2- Joy: Galatians 5:22
- 3- Peace: Galatians 5:22
- 4- Longsuffering: Galatians 5:22
- 5- Gentleness: Galatians 5:22
- 6- Goodness: Galatians 5:22
- 7- Faith: Galatians 5:22
- 8- Meekness: Galatians 5:23
- 9- Temperance: Galatians 5:23

D- Right Department Made Possible By: Galatians 5:24-26

- 1- Crucifying the Flesh: Galatians 5:24
- 2- Walking in the Spirit: Galatians 5:25
- 3- Laying Aside Ourselves for Others: Galatians 5:26

A- Warfare of Our Two Natures: Galatians 5:16-18

Paul, if we assume that Galatians was written prior to the book of Romans, expanded upon this subject in Romans 7-8. (Please see my notes on Romans for a more intense study of this)

I wish to remind us of a couple of things prior to starting into our study of the text. First, the body is neutral and it only does what it is lead to do either by the flesh or the Spirit. The walking in the Spirit of verse 16 is continue to walk and on going act. We will discuss this later in more detail.

Second, this section does not teach in any way that if and when we fail that we are not children of God.

a- Flesh Lusteth Against Spirit: Galatians 5:17

This is the warfare that Paul talks about that each and everyone of us can testify to. Rom_7:15-20 is written concerning this.

b- Spirit Lusteth Against the Flesh: Galatians 5:17

The Spirit of God that dwells within us as believers is at war with the old Adamic nature that tries to rule. Paul says in the 7th chapter of Romans, "I find then a law, that when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight after the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." So we see that we are caught in a struggle against the flesh as we try to do right.

B- Acts of Wrong Department: Galatians 5:19-21

The thing that makes us do the wrong thing is when we surrender to the flesh. The flesh is generally understood as being the human nature of man or the lower nature.

I will simply follow the list down and give a little understanding to each of these things that Paul says are the, "Works of the flesh." I guess we could say these are the "Rotten Fruit" of the flesh.

The first three things in our list relate to the improper sexual relations.

1- Adultery: Galatians 5:19

This is from the Greek word Moichos and "denotes one who has unlawful intercourse with the spouse of another." 61 It also has a spiritual application of following other gods.

2- Fornication: Galatians 5:19

This word is from the Greek word porneia, The root word is porn, from which we get our word pornography. This word means, "illicit sexual intercourse." 62 This term includes adultery and also includes relations before marriage.

3- Uncleaness: Galatians 5:19

This word is from the Greek Akatharsia and means just what it says uncleaness. Uncleaness both in the physical and moral sense. It is in the moral sense it is used here, "Suggestive of the fact that sensuality and evil doctrine are frequently associated." 63

4- Lasciviousness: Galatians 5:19

This word is Aselgeia in the Greek and, "Denotes excess, licentiousness, absence of restraints, indecency, wantonness." 64

Next we see the work of the flesh as found in religious practices, idol worship and sorcery.

5- Idolatry: Galatians 5:20

The word idolatry is simply accepting other gods rather than the true God. It is from the Greek word Eidololatria and means the worship of an idol.

6- Witchcraft: Galatians 5:20

This word is the word Pharmakia from which we get our English word pharmacy. It, "primarily signified the use of medicine, drugs, spells; then, poisoning; then, sorcery...In sorcery, the use of drugs, whether simple or potent, was generally accompanied by incantations and appeals to occult powers, with the provision of various charms, amulets, etc., professedly designed to keep the applicant or patient from the attention and power of demons, but actually to impress the applicant with the mysterious resources and powers of the sorcerer." 65

Next we come to several items of social relationships. There are some that deal with conflict and division and others are mental attitudes that destroy.

7- Hatred: Galatians 5:20

This word is best translated or understood as enmity. Greek echthra is translated enmity in the Revised Version. "It is the opposite of agape, love." 66 This is a general word for hostility.

8- Variance: Galatians 5:20

This mans, "to cut apart, divide in two." 67 In the NIV it is translated, "discord." When someone or something is set at variance of another it is at odds against or in opposition to.

9- Emulations: Galatians 5:20

This word means zeal or jealousy. It is from the Greek word zelos. It does not refer to the godly type of jealousy but the selfish kind.

10- Wrath: Galatians 5:20

This means outburst of anger and is translated in the NIV, "Fits of rage." It is from the Greek word, "Thumos, hot anger, passion..." 68 It is also translated "fierceness."

11- Strife: Galatians 5:20

"Strife carries with it the idea of 'self-seeking, selfish ambition,' that creates divisions in the church." 69 It is from the Greek word eris.

12- Seditions: Galatians 5:20

Seditions and heresies are kindred words. The Greek word is Dichostasia meaning, "a dissension, and insurrection..."

13- Heresies: Galatians 5:20

Is Hairesis in the Greek. It, "Denotes a choosing, choice, then, that which is chosen, and hence, an opinion, especially a self-willed opinion, which is substituted for submission to the power of truth, and leads to division and the formation of sects...such erroneous opinions are frequently the outcome of personal preference or the prospect of advantage." 71

Warren Weirsbe says concerning seditions and heresies, "The first suggests division and the second cliques caused by a party spirit...Divisions and factions would be a fair translation." 72

14- Envyings: Galatians 5:21

Greek Phthonos, "envy, is the feeling of displeasure produced by witnessing or hearing of the advantage or prosperity of others." 73

15- Murders: Galatians 5:21

This word does not need any definition as it is sufficiently understood by itself.

16- Drunkenness: Galatians 5:21

Habitual intoxication, is the meaning of the Greek word Methe." This is self understood also.

17- Revellings: Galatians 5:21

This is translated in the NIV as "orgies." This is the rabble rouser or the whore monger. The one who carousels.

18- And Such Like: Galatians 5:21

One little boy when asked what the sin of commission and omission said, "the sin of commission is the ones we did and the sin of omission is the ones we haven't gotten to yet." This may be humorous but I think that is just what Paul is saying. Just in case this is not a complete list he says, "And such like." This includes all those others he might have missed.

Paul in the last part of this verse is not talking about a one time act keeping us out of heaven. We know that the Christian will not continually live in the alleys of this world but will come out.

C- Acts of Right Deportment: Galatians 5:22-23

We now come to the famous and familiar verses of the scripture affectionately known as the fruit of the spirit. Remember that the former things were called the "works" of the flesh. "The contrast between works and fruits is important. A machine in a factory works, and turns out a

product, but it could never manufacture fruit, Fruit must grow out of life, and in the case of the believer, it is the life of the Spirit." 74

Another important thing to remember is that this is "fruit" of the Spirit and not fruits. It is singular not plural. This fruit is also not produced by the believer but by the Spirit. It is the "Fruit of the Spirit."

1- Love: Galatians 5:22

Agape is the Greek word for love. This is the one act that all the others hinge upon. This is a godly love that is God's will that we have for each other.

2- Joy: Galatians 5:22

Joy is that inward peace that comes from a right relationship with God. It is Chara in the Greek. Joy was promised by Christ to us in Joh_15:11 .

3- Peace: Galatians 5:22

Greek, Eirene, means an inner sanctuary in the storm. It is a gift from Christ also. (see Joh_14:27 .)

4- Longsuffering: Galatians 5:22

Makrothumia meaning, "forbearance, patience, longsuffering." 75 It is translated in the NIV as, "Patience."

5- Gentleness: Galatians 5:22

Prautes "marks a person who is submissive to God's Word...and who is considerate to others when discipline is needed." 76

6- Goodness: Galatians 5:22

Agathos meaning "love in action" 77 This can also mean upright in the soul as well as reaching out to others.

7- Faith: Galatians 5:22

Pistis means dependability, faithfulness. It is rendered in the NIV "faithfulness."

8- Meekness: Galatians 5:23

Prautes is translated "gentleness" in the NIV and is at times misunderstood to mean weakness. The best definition of this for my mind is, "The right use of power and authority, power under control." 78

9- Temperance: Galatians 5:23

Enkrateia, self control in the NIV and, "Denotes self-mastery and no doubt primarily relates to curbing the fleshly impulses just described." 79

D- Right Department Made Possible By: Galatians 5:24-26

These things are tough and we know just how far we are from living up to the expectation of the Christian life. How can we do it? What will help us to do better?

1- Crucifying the Flesh: Galatians 5:24

This is not self mutilation or self crucifixion but is simply the fact that we have died with Christ and raised to walk in newness of life. (See Rom_6:1-6 .) We must realize that we are dead in Christ. Our past and present as well as our future sins have been judged and we now can have victory over them.

2- Walking in the Spirit: Galatians 5:25

This means to "keep in step with the Spirit." This is the way the NIV translates it. Our life will be in line if we walk in the steps that the Spirit of God leads us into. Our decision and our deeds need to be brought under His control.

3- Laying Aside Ourselves for Others: Galatians 5:26

One of the ways that we know if the fruit that our life has is of the Spirit of God or of the flesh is if we are doing it for self glory or for our own horn to be tooted or for the Glory of God.

Paul states in Rom_12:10, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." He also gives us some additional advice on this in Rom_12:3-5 .

Let us remember that fruit is produced to be eaten and we know that the world cries out for love, joy, meekness and all of the fruit of the Spirit to be present in our lives and given unto them. We must constantly be on guard and allow the Spirit of God to lead us into the right department. Department that is fitting of one who has been redeemed by the Pure Gospel.