

Sunday, March 28, 2010—Grace Life School of Theology—Understanding Galatians and the Law—Galatians 5:16-18

Galatians 5:16

- *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”*
- Paul instructs the Galatians and therefore us to “walk in the spirit,” or led our daily lives by the power of God the Holy Spirit.
- Ephesians 5:18—we need to allow the Holy Spirit that we have been given to be the operative force in our lives.
 - Verse 19—worship to God
 - Verse 20—thankfulness
 - Verse 21—submission in the fear of God
 - Verses 22-24—wives to husbands
 - Verses 25-29—husbands to Christ
 - Cp. 6 V. 1-2—children to parents
 - Cp. 6 V 5-7—servants to masters
- Colossians 3:16—letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly produce the same results as being filled with the spirit.
 - Verse 16—worship to God
 - Verse 17—thankfulness
 - Verse 18—wives to husbands
 - Verse 19—husbands to wives
 - Verse 20—children to parents
 - Verse 22—servants to masters
- Walking in the Spirit or being filled with the Spirit has nothing to do with speaking in tongues as Pentecostals suggest.
- When one walks in the Spirit there is no possibility of fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. They are mutually exclusive systems.
- Romans 8:11-12

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.
- I Corinthians 10:6
- Romans 1:24, 6:12—the Holy Spirit desires what the flesh abhors, and the flesh desires what the Holy Spirit abhors.

- 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 end 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—the believer in himself is no better than the unbeliever.
- The believer has the same temptations to sin that steam from the flesh programming of our old nature. 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 believes the gospel.

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.
- 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.