



Galatians 5:16-21: The Works of the Sinful Nature

Grace and the Gospel Bible Study

St. John Lutheran Church

“Thus, when I exhort you to walk in the Spirit and not to fulfill the desires of the flesh, I don’t require you to be entirely rid of the flesh or destroy it, but to bridle it and submit it. However, our righteousness abounds much more than our sin because Christ’s holiness and righteousness abound so much more. He is so great, so immense, and infinite that He easily devours all sin so that we can walk according to the Spirit.” - Martin Luther, *Commentary on Saint Paul’s Epistle to the Galatians*

“No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him.” Do you agree?

Sometimes we excuse our bad habits saying, “I am only human.” What is wrong with this analysis?

Galatians 5:16

What metaphor does Paul suggest with *walk*?

What does Paul contrast with *flesh* and *Spirit*?

Romans 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:17

In what struggle is the Christian caught?

Romans 7:19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

Galatians 5:18

This sentence is conditional. What condition leaves the Galatians “not under the law”?

In what sense are the Galatians no longer under the law?

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 5:19

Why are works of the flesh evident?

The works of the flesh:

- sexual immorality
- impurity
- sensuality

Galatians 5:20

The works of the flesh:

- idolatry
- sorcery
- enmity
- strife
- jealousy
- fits of anger
- rivalries
- dissensions
- divisions

Galatians 5:21

The works of the flesh:

- envy
- drunkenness
- orgies
- and things like these

What warning concludes this list? Why don't we take this warning seriously?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.