

# Galatians Study

## Gospel Character (5:16-25)

Lesson 9: July 14, 2010

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1. According to this passage what are the two natures at work in every Christians? (16-18)
2. What is the main way they influence us? What does the Christian truly “want” and why?
3. What is set in opposition to the Spirit in v.16? What is set in opposition to it in v.18? What does this tell us about how the sinful nature or flesh actually operates?

*“A motivational system is centered on a goal that the imagination finds beautiful and desirable. This goal generates what we perceive as “needs” and “drives” for it. The sinful nature is really our old motivational system- with its own goals and thus its own needs and drives- still somewhat intact. As we have seen, sin is slavery because its goals (earning worth/ righteousness through service to idols) focuses on some object that the flesh turns into an idol by which we seek our salvation (“I can have worth if I am loved” or “If I have a good career” or “If my children love me”), which finally then creates drives and over-desires for it.”*

4. In light of v.18, what does it mean to “crucify the sinful nature” with its “over-desires?” What then, does it mean to “live” or “walk” by the Spirit?
5. What common mistakes do people make about what it means to “crucify the flesh” (24-25)

6. Verses 19-21. Break the works of the flesh into categories. What do you learn about the human heart from the list? About yourself from the list?

There are three words to do with the works of the flesh in the area of **sexuality**:

sexual immorality -  
impurity -  
debauchery -

There are two words having to do with the area of **religion**:

idolatry -  
witchcraft -

There are eight words that describe how the flesh destroys **relationships**:

Four describe destructive *attitudes*:

selfish ambition  
envy  
jealousy  
hatred

Four describe the *results* of these attitudes in relationships:

discord  
fits of rage  
dissensions  
factions

There are two words that refer to **substance abuse**:

drunkenness  
orgies

7. Does the following statement make sense to you? (Why, or why not?)  
“Joyful repentance for the residual self-righteousness under both our sins and our good deeds is the secret of change.”

If we don't repent of the self-righteousness under our sins, we won't be able to wither the real power and dynamic fueling them. If we don't repent of the self-righteousness under or good deeds, we will set ourselves up for the anxiety and anger when things don't go well (because we will feel God owes us).