



Galatians

FREEDOM BY FAITH

The War is Real

Galatians 5:19-24

Stuart McCray, Associate Pastor

August 18, 2019

The works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit reveal that Spirit-filled, justified Christians are in a spiritual war, where they have already in Christ, crucified the flesh.

1. Works of the Flesh (vv. 19-21, 24)

The "flesh", when put in opposition with the Spirit, does not refer to our bodies, but to the sinful nature, the part of our hearts which is not yet renewed by the Spirit.

The "works of the flesh" are anti-God, self-centered, and are therefore necessarily anti-relational.

The list of "the works of the flesh" are organized into 4 categories: 1) sexual sin, 2) failure to worship God rightly, 3) social sins that destroy relationships, and 4) those related to substance abuse. (The 3rd category contains the most.)

Putting to Death the Works of the Flesh

- Living in the good of the gospel (v.24)
- Depending on the Holy Spirit's enabling power
- Recognizing your responsibility
- Identifying specific sins
- Getting outside help

2. Fruit of the Spirit (vv. 22-23)

The "fruit of the Spirit" is God-centered and fundamentally relational.

"[The fruit of the Spirit] flows to us from our union with Christ, and it flows beyond us to bring us into fellowship with others." – Jerry Bridges

Questions to Consider

1. Which works of the flesh are you struggling with the most? Why are you gratifying this fleshly desire?
2. How are the works of the flesh anti-relational?
3. What aspect of putting to death the powerless presence of the flesh are you in need of participating in?
4. How are the fruit of the Spirit aspects of serving others in love?
5. Which of the Spirit's fruit do you see in your life? How should this be an encouragement to you?
6. Which of the Spirit's fruit are you in need of asking God to grow in you? How can you intentionally lean into the Spirit's work in producing this fruit in you?
7. How can and should the gospel both encourage and motivate you to pursue change in the above?

Next Week's Sermon Text: Galatians 5:25–6:5