

The Civil War (X)

(Galatians 5:16-26)

- Civil War – 620,000 lives
- WWII – 405,229 lives
- Since Genesis 3 – most deadly war of all –
flesh against spirit

15: law of jungle, survival of fittest – people
fight to promote personal desires, Ph.4:2-3

15: consequences: consumed – Lk.9:54

I. Contradictory Conduct: Flesh Against Spirit, 16-17

16:

- I say then... – 1:10-12. New way to think...
- Walk – pres. tense; habitual conduct
 - Not DUI but WUI (by direction of Holy Spirit)
- Not fulfill lust of flesh – 2:20
 - Only good can push out bad: reject violent actions / attitudes
 - No longer I who live, 5:13
 - Ro.6:2-6, dead
- Spirit [Holy Spirit] but principles include human spirit

17:

- **Flesh lusts against Spirit:** All are subject to temptation. 1 Co.9:24-27. Gn.4:7. 1 Pt.2:11
- **Spirit against flesh:** Flesh always wants to regain the throne. Spirit says No! (19-21...)
 - Battle continues till we die. Civil war
 - Libertine: no struggle.
 - Legalist: struggles but loses.
 - Believer: holy conflict wins tug of war.
Ph.2:12

I. Contradictory Conduct: Flesh Against Spirit

II. Consecrated Conduct:
Led by Spirit, 18

18: Led by Spirit

- Ro.8¹⁴ as many as are led by the Spirit, these are sons of God
 - a. Judaizers are fighting Holy Spirit (Gal.5:18)
 - b. Some pretend to be led by Holy Spirit
 - Who is “*you*”? (16, 18 || Ro.8:14)
 - What does *Spirit* do? Leads us in truth...
 - What results?
 - NOT OT regulations (Judaizers)
 - NOT works of flesh (Galatians)
 - BUT fruit of Spirit (as this very epistle)
- Antidote to sinful life: be directed by Spirit

I. Contradictory Conduct: Flesh Against Spirit

II. Consecrated Conduct: Flesh Against Spirit

III. Corruption of Flesh, 19-21

19-21:

Now the works of the flesh are evident...

- a. Works of the flesh reveals source: immoral man. Emphasis on flesh...
- b. Evident: visible, clear, plainly seen...

19-21: immorality

- Adultery: Greeks... 'Not serious' . . .
- Fornication: general term
- Uncleanness: includes – all immorality [words, thoughts, deeds, desires... impurity, etc.]
- Lewdness: licentiousness; lasciviousness; indecency; unbridled lust – plunging onward into sin... Ep.4:19

19-21: idolatry

- Idolatry. Connected with sexual sins; constant danger to Gentile Christians... Col.3:5
- Sorcery. Witchcraft, charms, drugs. Ac.19:18f.

19-21: Rivalry

- Hatred: hostility; opposite of brotherly love...
- Contentions: strife, rivalry, hot-tempered...
- Jealousies: [also in another context – zeal] – desire to be as well off as another
- Outbursts of wrath: uncontrolled anger; flare up
- Selfish ambitions: selfishness, self-seeking.
2 Co.12:20
- Dissentions: quarrels, hostility: 1 Co.1:12-13
- Heresies: 1 Co.11:19. Ac.5:17
- Envy: Mt.27:18; Ph.1:15
- Murders: Mt.5:21-22

19-21: Inebriety, intoxication

- Drunkenness: Ro.13:13. 1 Pt.4:1-3
- Revelries: of disorderly night-time procession of men parading through streets with torches and songs honoring Bacchus...
- And the like:
 - Not exhaustive
 - Paul had warned Galatians about these things in the past

Consequences:

- 21: Prevent entrance into kingdom of God...

I. Contradictory Conduct: Flesh Against Spirit

II. Consecrated Conduct: Flesh Against Spirit

III. Corruption of Flesh

IV. Control of Spirit, 22-23

22-23: Fruit of the Spirit is . . . singular

1. Flesh spreads out in many directions with wide variety of evil ‘works’
2. Spirit follows one direction: produces nothing but virtues. Ep.5:9, ‘fruit’ – collective noun; sg.
3. Fruit is singular, but inclusive – nine parts
4. Various parts work together, make fruit of Spirit
 - a. Gal.3:16, Abraham’s ‘seed’ (sg.) though composed of many
 - b. Order ‘fruit’ salad –
“Bring bowl of peach??” “...peaches??”

22-23: Fruit of the Spirit is . . .

5. We must have the fruit (sg.) of the Spirit to be complete [it is one, yet manifold]
6. 19-21, 'works' (pl.) because they are separate and divided.
 - a. It takes only one of these to destroy a soul.
 - b. It takes ALL the fruit of the Spirit to save.
 - c. Flesh produces no fruit (context).
 - 1) Ep.5:9, 11 (works)
 - 2) Ro.6:21
 - 3) Mt.7:15-20

22-23: only virtues...

1. Love – good word that has been perverted.
 - a. Works in best interest of object
 - b. Paul's own description – 1 Co.13
 - c. Mother of all virtues (5:6, 14)
2. Joy – in middle of great depression... 2 Co.6:10
3. Peace – as much as possible, with all, 1:3
4. Longsuffering – long-tempered. Mind holds out long before giving way to action.
5. Kindness – gentleness; treat others as . . .

22-23: only virtues...

6. Goodness – following footsteps of Jesus, Ac.10:38. Gal.6:9
7. Faithfulness – trustworthy, dependable, keeping our word
8. Gentleness – Nu.12:3. Gal.6:1
9. Self-control – holding in of passions and appetites. Ac.24:25

There is no law against it, 23b

24:

- **Are:** be in practice what you are in principle
 - 1 Co.9:27
- **Crucifixion:** pitiless, painful, and decisive – the ultimate self-denial. Mk.8:34
 - Ro.6:6
- **Flesh:** body dominated by sin. Ro.8:3-4
- **Passions:** feelings (mortal enemies) Ro.7:5 Gal.6:8.
- **Desires:** longing, craving. 5:16; Ro.13:14,
But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts

25:

- Live in the Spirit → Walk in the Spirit [live]
- “Walk” = stand in a row; in line with a person or thing considered as standard for one’s conduct.
- Some are ‘out of line.’ 6:16
 - “Feel it in my heart...”
 - “God wants me to be happy...”

A Christian lives as a Christian should live:
our goals, our talk, our dress, our desires...
all in accord with word of God

26: NOT . . .

- **Conceited**: exaggerated self-conceptions, boastful. Judaizers wanted glory (6:13).
'Refers to one who knows how or who attempts to achieve unfounded respect and by his actions demonstrates big talk, boasting, and ambition' – R-R
- **Provoking**: frequently in hostile sense, provoke, challenge. Lk.18:9...
- **Envy**: be jealous; dislike someone, be resentful toward someone without the connotation of jealousy or a grudge. The weak respond in resentment.

- Two choices: ¹follow Jesus or ²follow satan
- Psalm 1: tale of two men
 - One is like a tree planted by rivers...bringing forth fruit in season...because he delights in law of Lord
 - Second is like chaff driven by the wind...