

UNDERSTANDING THE CONFLICT WITHIN

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. ¹⁶ So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷ For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ¹⁹ The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Galatians 5:13-26 (NIV)

❖ Three Distinct Christian Camps

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV)

1. Christians that are bound to the Law... LEGALISM.

For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group.

Titus 1:10 (NIV)

2. Christians that have discounted God's Word... LIBERTINISM.

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 (NIV)

3. Christians that walk in the Spirit... LOVE.

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud.

1 Corinthians 13:4 (NLT)

❖ When We Walk in the Flesh

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition,

dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21 (NIV)

1. The struggle with sins of IMPURITY.

... sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery...

Galatians 5:19b (NIV)

2. The danger of sins of IDOLATRY.

... idolatry and witchcraft...

Galatians 5:20a (NIV)

3. The practice of sins of ANIMOSITY.

... hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy...

Galatians 5:20b-21a (NIV)

4. The habits of sins of INTEMPERANCE.

... drunkenness, orgies, and the like...

Galatians 5:21a (NIV)

❖ When We Walk in the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

1. Fruit in regard to our CONNECTION with GOD.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...

Galatians 5:22 (NIV)

Love is the Greek word Agape

Joy is the Greek word Chara

Peace is the Greek word Shalom

2. Fruit in regard to our CONCERN for OTHERS.

... patience, kindness, goodness...

Galatians 5:22 (NIV)

Patience is connected to the Greek word for Longsuffering

Kindness speaks for itself

Goodness is also self-explanatory

3. Fruit in regard to our CONDUCT toward OTHERS.

... faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

Faithfulness is the Greek word Pistis

Gentleness is related to the Greek word for being Humble

Self-control is directly related to the word for Disciplined

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)