

Galatians 5:19-21 – When the Spirit Doesn't Lead You Fall into Sin

Robertson, GreekLexicon, TSK, Bezuyen, Gill, JFB, Handfuls, Family, Geneva, Barnes, Rienecker, Poole, PNT, Henry, Gaebelin, Calvin, Gill
Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: In the previous sermon you heard Apostle Paul's warning to Galatians that they were **not to use their freedom as an excuse to sin** – to live however they wanted.

Instead, they were to use their liberty to do good...show love for their neighbor.

And in order to live in that liberty and show love to their neighbor, **they were to be led by the Spirit of God**. (V13-18)

In the **next 2 sermons** you will hear what happens **when you are not led by the Spirit of God** and what happens **when you are led by the Spirit of God**.

We will start with seeing what happens when you are not led by the Spirit of God.

Our headings are:

Evidence of Wickedness

Examples of Wickedness

Results of Wickedness

Our goals: **That if you are corrupted by heinous sins, you will ask God's Spirit to clean you out and take over leadership in you.**

Evidence of Wickedness

19 Now the **works of the flesh** are **evident**

1. Apostle Paul called on Galatians Christian who were freed from works of the law and saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, and guided by the Holy Spirit, to avoid the "works of the flesh."

2. What were "works of the flesh?"

"Works of the flesh" described works that were done to satisfy man's corrupt nature. The flesh (man's corrupt nature) did not consider whether a work were pleasing to the Lord but only if it were pleasing to him.

Pleasing oneself was the goal!

3. This wickedness of some in the church who lived for their own pleasure was evident (manifest) to the world.

A “manifest” shows exactly what is inside a shipping container!

Similarly, whatever was in the heart of wicked men became evident to the world. **Sin bore fruit of the flesh.** Those **fruits were visible.**

4. Lessons:

a. If you are living a life of wickedness, even while claiming to be a Christian, know your wickedness is evident to God. He hates hypocrisy.

Though you might fool some people, even fool your spouse or parents, God sees your sins like a billboard on the 401!

And even in this world, people will eventually see you... **Examine your life.**

b. Watch out for people who claim to be believers but don't show by their lives that they are believers, and warn them to get their lives in order.

Leave them if they refuse to amend their ways.

Don't marry them.

Don't be close to them.

c. Know that your wickedness harms your family, church, society, and nation. Know your wickedness hurts Christ.

Examples of Wickedness

19...which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like;

1. Let's consider a list (but not an exhaustive list) of works of the flesh which were evident to the world and to God, in those who claimed to be saved by grace, through faith, in Christ alone but were not living up to the family name.

Sexual sins:

a. adultery This refers to a defilement of the marriage bed. Adultery is condemned by God and by nature. **Adultery results in corruption and destruction of the family, which corrupts the church, and which ultimately destroys society.**

Question: **How could our federal government promote such self-destruction?** They are not guided by the Spirit of God.

b. fornication This refers to any type of sexual uncleanness -including those in a

single state. Fornication destroys many lives, including marriages that take place later. It is sometimes translated “lasciviousness.” So it is an expansion of adultery.

c. uncleanness This is really an expansion of adultery and fornication, and can refer to any kind of sexual immorality.

Romans 1:24 Therefore God also gave them up to **uncleanness**, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

d. lewdness This refers most likely to homosexuality, but can apply to any shameless act.

False Religions

e. idolatry This refers to the worship of any false gods like Bacchus and Venus, but also includes worship of things, people, and places that controlled people’s lives. This includes using images to worship.

f. sorcery This refers to any consultation, real or fake, with the Devil to get assistance and instruction. Sorcery or witchcraft detract from the worship of God. This was very common at the time. These included spells and incantations that were used for the restoration of the health. (The root word for sorcery is the same word from which we get pharmacy.) These included trying to get and use “love potions.”

Acts 19:19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic **brought their books** together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it **totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver**.

Personal Relations sins

g. hatred (enmities) This is a plural word and refers to all kinds of hatred: of the Word of God, of God himself, and of his neighbors.

h. contentions This refers to fighting words and desiring to always correct people. This refers to lawsuits, something common at that time.

i. jealousies This refers to having zeal for bad things, fighting, having boiling spirits and wrong passions.

j. outbursts of wrath This refers to moving toward revenge...and seeking to hurt others.

k. selfish ambitions The elevation of self has destroyed Western culture! Freedom did not mean freedom to crush others.

l. dissensions This refers to those who always have to fight and includes those who are seditious. This resulted in division in the home, church, and state.

m. heresies This refers to a corruption of sacred things, especially doctrines -a common problem in Galatia. These were like stumbling blocks in the path of a runner. They were free, but not free to harm others.

Social sins

n. envy This is more than jealousy. This is to despise the other person who has something you desire and then you desire to even hurt him to get what he has.

o. murders This is linked to envy. Freedom required loving others – not killing them.

p. drunkenness This refers to those who drink too much and therefore lose the ability to think straight and fulfill their duties. Freedom required keeping focus. Drunk men murder.

q. revelries This refers to over-indulgence, and is tied to drunkenness. This is a general word – encompassing those who just lived for partying.

2. It may sound extraordinary to have these types of sins in the church, but no one should be surprised.

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

There are always serious sins in the church.

3. Lessons:

a. Never be surprised by what sin shows up in church. The church is not made up of perfect people. There can be a high degree of wickedness in the church.

b. Pray you will not be involved in any of these serious sins. Yes, the world tells us of all the delights of these sins, but they are poison.

They are self-gratifying, but they will cause personal pain.

Loneliness, heartaches, terrible diseases, and unwanted pregnancies are the result.

Adultery hurts and destroys!

Idolatry robs God.

Selfishness destroys friendships.

Drugs destroy bodies – yours and others! So pray! Pray hard!

c. Don't use the fact that you don't have to do anything to be saved as an excuse to live however you want. Good works prove your salvation. A good tree will bear good fruits.

d. Be patient with (but don't ignore) those who fall into serious sins. Help them. Pray for them. Urge them to get pastoral counseling if they need it. Warn them of judgment

Results of Wickedness

21...of which **I tell you beforehand**, just as I also told you in time past, **that those who practice such things** will not inherit the kingdom of God.

1. Those who said they believed in Jesus but used their liberty to live however they wanted and continuously committed these heinous sins, would be excluded from God's kingdom.

a. Notice Apostle Paul spoke of those who "practice" these sins... for the Lord knows as long as men are in this world they will sin.

The difference is he **doesn't expect them to continue in that state for a long time** without jeopardizing their salvation.

b. Notice how Apostle Paul did not threaten those who sin, as he knows men will always sin.

What he was concerned about was those who refused to ask for forgiveness.

2. This threat of judgment for complacent people is the consistent teaching of the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Repetition is for emphasis.

3. Lessons:

a. People who are members of the church, even in positions of leadership, will spend eternity in hell because they are not saved and continuously live wicked lives to prove they aren't. There are no hypocrites in heaven.

Romans 2:21 You, therefore, **who teach another, do you not teach**

yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, **do you steal?**
22 You who say, "Do not commit adultery," **do you commit adultery?**
You who abhor idols, **do you rob temples?** 23 You who make your
boast in the law, **do you dishonor God through breaking the law?**

b. And don't forget all the hurts these sins may bring in this life – the broken relationship, the poverty, the divorces, suicides, destroyed careers, failed churches, and lonely hearts!

c. So work out your salvation with fear and trembling. Do what is good to prove to yourself and others that you were saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Don't say: "I'm saved, I could live however I want." That's how the wicked men deceive themselves.

Conclusion:

Christians were warned to get their lives in order and shed lives of hypocrisy or face hell. **They were definitely not to use their freedom as a cover for sinfulness.** Their lives had to be characterized by bearing good fruits...fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Search your own life. See if there is a disconnect between what you say and what you do! If there is, get it right.

Call on the Lord to renew the message of the cross in your heart.

Draw from Christ and bear good fruits.

2. Speak to those you see who are inconsistent in their word and their lives. Gently remind them when they are dishonoring God.

By winning them back, you will bring praise back to God.

3. Share this warning with the world because the world doesn't know what is right and wrong anymore.

They don't know what a man or woman is.

They don't even know what theft is!

They kill the baby and protect the murderer.

You can tell them the truth. If they will listen, please tell them! You can save their lives.

Finally: **God knows if you are a believer or not.** If you aren't a believer, call on him for help. He will help you by showing you how holy God is, by showing you how bad your sins are, and by showing you the work of Christ for sinners. More, he will give you faith to receive Jesus' work. All this you get if you ask. Ask today.