

Lesson 21:

1. Works of the flesh vs fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-21 – Works (fruit) of the flesh

16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

A. Paul lists 17 works of the flesh in those verses. Notice the first 4 are sexual in nature:

1. Adultery – a defilement of the marriage bed, and is the sin of uncleanness committed by two persons, one of which at least is in a married state.
2. Fornication – illicit behavior between single or unmarried persons;
3. Uncleanness – immoral acts or unnatural practices; such as sodomy, bestiality.
4. Lasciviousness – inclined to lustfulness; wanton; lewd, arousing sexual desire.

- In the day that we live in today we have much more access to things that draw our fleshly lusts. The latest statistics say that in the United States 84% of households have a computer in the house. 73% of those homes have an internet connection and 77% of citizens in the United States own a Smartphone with internet access.

At the simple click of a button, a touch of an icon, a simple keyword typed in; every man, woman, and child have the means to see anything their minds can imagine.

The internet is much like television, it can be used for good or for bad. Unfortunately, it seems that the bad outweighs the good.

- **Let me give you some alarming statistics:**

- 3 out of 5 divorced couples state that pornography was the cause of their marriage breakdown.
- 9 out of 10 boys and 6 out of 10 girls are exposed to pornography before they are 18-years old.
- 2 out of 5 Church-going men regularly view pornography several times a week.
- Every second 28,258 users are watching pornography on the internet
- Every second \$3,075.64 is being spent on pornography on the internet
- Every second 372 people are typing the word "adult" into search engines
- 40 million American people regularly visit porn sites
- 35% of all internet downloads are related to pornography
- 25% of all search engine queries are related to pornography, or about 68 million search queries a day
- Porn Sites Get More Visitors Each Month Than Netflix, Amazon and Twitter Combined.
- Men who view pornography are more likely to show an increased behavioral intent to rape
- Search engines get 116,000 queries every day related to child pornography
- 34% of internet users have experienced unwanted exposure to pornographic content through ads, pop up ads, misdirected links or emails

- 2.5 billion emails sent or received every day contain porn
- Every 39 minutes a new pornography video is being created in the United States
- Teenage boys who are addicted to internet pornography are less likely to marry or able to maintain a healthy stable marriage or relationship.
- It has become an epidemic in the days that we are living in and it's because our flesh is the weakest thing about us and the Devil knows all the right buttons to push.
- The Apostle Paul understood the power of the flesh and wrote about it in his letter to the Romans:

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.
- That word “**lust**” as used in our text means; “**to desire eagerly, to long after, a depraved, carnal desire.**” A good practical definition of lust is: “any sinful desire that is contrary to the will of God.”
- Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount addresses this lust of the flesh and eyes:

Matthew 5:27-29: Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. 29 And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast *it* from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not *that* thy whole body should be cast into hell.
- The list of the works of the flesh continues with:
 5. Idolatry – The worship of idols, images, or any thing made by hands, or which is not God.
 6. Witchcraft – The practices of witches; sorcery; enchantments; intercourse with the devil.
 7. Hatred – Strong dislike or unapproval of something or someone, especially despising the things of God or things that are good.
 8. Variance – Disputes and disagreements with others
 9. Emulations – A zealous jealousy leading to disputes with others.
 10. Wrath – Violent anger
 11. Strife – Always in contention with others, stirring up trouble and arguments.
 12. Seditions – Causing divisions between others, especially in the Church.
 13. Heresies – Teaching of doctrine opposite of the truth causing others to be misled.
 14. Envyings – Jealous causing division.
 15. Murders – Slaughter, the taking of someone's life.
 16. Drunkenness – Intoxicated
 17. Revellings – Carousing with obscene music and song (think of a belligerent drunk).
- B. In this comparison between works of the flesh and fruit of the Spirit, we also need to remember what the Bible says in Romans 8:5-8** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

C. Then Paul lists the 9 fruits of the Spirit:

- **Galatians 5:22-26** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

1. **Love** – An intense desire to please God and do good, true affections toward someone.

John 13:34-35: A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

2. **Joy** – A true happiness from within as the result of the work Christ has done in a person's heart.

John 15:7-14 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. 11 **These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.** 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. 14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

3. **Peace** – a calmness, not easily angered or upset, desiring to get along.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, **that in me ye might have peace.** In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

4. **Longsuffering** – Willingness to put up with, not rush to judgment or action.

1 Timothy 1:15-16 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first **Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering**, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

5. **Gentleness** – kindness toward others, a tender heartedness.

2 Corinthians 10:1 Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence *am* base among you, but being absent *am* bold toward you:

6. **Goodness** – the desire to abstain from every appearance of evil. Doing what is right all the time.

Psalms 107:9 For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

7. **Faith** – utmost belief in something despite having not seen it.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

8. **Meekness** – a mildness or gentleness, having great humility.

Ephesians 4:1-3 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

9. **Temperance** – moderation and level-headedness in all things.

2 Peter 1:3-10

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 **And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience;** and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make *you that ye shall* neither *be* barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

- I know I have been referring to the “fruits” (plural) of the Spirit but let’s not forget that the Bible says that these 9 things are the FRUIT (singular) of the Spirit. These things are all in the Holy Spirit all the time, not part of the time. So, all 9 of these things should be within each and every believer.
- To be pleasing and acceptable unto the LORD, we as Christians, must walk in the Spirit so that we are producing this fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

Ephesians 5:8-10

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.