

The Great Battle Part Two

Overcoming Sexual Sins & Conquering Godlessness

Gal. 5:16-26

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the way we overcome sin by living by the fruit of the Spirit
2. There is a battle between the flesh and the spirit. We can control our lives and win this battle.
 - a. Gal. 5:19-20
 - b. Gal. 5:21
3. Nature of the works of the flesh
 - a. Flesh – that which is of world, opposite of spiritually-minded (Rom. 8:5-6)
 - b. Works – deeds that result from a fleshly mind (come from the heart – Matt. 15:19)
4. In this lesson we will discuss how to:
 - a. Overcome Sexual Sins
 - b. And How to Conquer Godlessness
5. The Fruits of the Spirit are given in Gal. 5:22-23 and this is the way to win the battle.

Discussion

I. SEXUAL SINS

- A. Sexual sins have always been a problem with human beings
 1. Many examples in the Old Testament.
 2. Romans 1
 3. 1 Cor. 6:9-10 are examples from 1st century

B. Sexual Sins - Adultery, Fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness [lewdness]

C. Adultery

1. Unlawful and immoral relations - premarital
2. Sexual relations outside of marriage
3. Voluntary relations with another
4. Cheating - infidelity

D. Fornication

1. Extramarital relations
2. Fornication is connected with the word sell - links with the sin of prostitution
3. Every kind of unlawful sexual relations -- whoredom, concubinage, lewdness, pornography - pictures - books - movies - videos
4. Heb. 13:4 "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

E. Uncleanness

1. Moral impurity, wickedness, bestiality, sodomy - Homosexuality
2. The original word carried with it the idea of: soiled, dirty, repulsive
3. Filth or sexual deviation - aberrations
4. Thayer-p.21 In a moral sense, the impurity of lustful, luxurious, profligate living
5. Gen. 18:20 "Their sin is very grievous" [Grave NKJV] - talking about Sodom - homosexuality is a sin - so bad that God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone for that very reason

F. Lasciviousness = Lewdness in NKJV

1. All restraints removed, plunging onward like a runaway horse.
2. This person Loves sin so strongly that he does not care what man or God thinks of his action. Lost a sense of shame - so he lives in shameless behavior
3. Lewdness - wantonness = promiscuity, sensual, adultery
4. Thayer p. 79 -- Unbridled lust, excess, licentiousness, lasciviousness, wantonness, outrageousness, shamelessness, insolence. Wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc."
5. This word is one that best describes...
 - a. What is often seen in much of modern dance, music, and theater
 - b. What goes on at many concerts, and on many talk shows

G. These Sexual Sins will cause us not to inherit the kingdom of God. - Adultery, Fornication, Uncleaness, Lasciviousness

II. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS THE WAY TO OVERCOME

- A. Romans 8:13 "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live."
1. Death = spiritual
 2. We will die physically no matter how we live
 3. To live spiritually we must put to death the deeds of the body
 4. Rm.8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."
 - a. The Spirit leads through the power of the gospel
 - b. The Gospel was revealed by the Spirit

c. If we follow the instructions of the Word of God we can overcome these sexual sins that will cause our spiritual death.

5. At least two of these will help us overcome

B. LOVE

1. Love - Agape "Spirit which will never seek anything but the highest good of its fellow man! It does not matter how his fellow-man treats him, or what his attitude may be to him, it always seeks their highest and best good." ¹
2. Agape Col. 3:14
 - a. Rom. 13:10 NKJV "Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law."
 - b. It is an attitude which will never seek anything but the highest good of its fellow men
 - c. Agape causes us to act right toward our fellow man regardless of how they have treated us.
 - d. Col. 3:14 "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."
3. Love for our fellow man will stop us from committing sin with them:
 - a. Adultery & Fornication are often described as making love. But in reality it is committing sin!!!
 - b. Real love will not allow us to commit sin with that other person.
 - c. Excuse is made by those who are engaged in premarital sex that they just loved each other so much they could not help themselves.

¹ p. 65 Barclay - Commentary on Galatians

C. Temperance - Self Control

1. SELF CONTROL Temperance = ASV
 - a. This word means to grip, to grasp, to hold to
 - b. The man with temperance has a controlling grip and hold of himself
2. He can live in the world, and yet to keep his garments unspotted from the world!
3. John 17:15 "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil."
4. Our body is a dwelling place to be used by the inner man
 - a. The spirit is charged to not let sin control the body
 - b. These natural desires are not evil within themselves
 - c. But when we allow the desires to become master and satisfied in an unlawful way this is sin. We must control the lusts of our body, not obey them.²

D. Heb. 13:4

1. The sexual relationship is reserved for Marriage and Marriage only
 - a. In the bonds of marriage it is right and honorable and beautiful
 - b. Outside of marriage it is sin and is ugly and destructive
2. Many people will loose their soul because of sexual sins. We can overcome if we allow the fruit of the spirit to control our lives instead of following the works of the flesh
 - a. True Love - Seeks the highest good of our fellow man
 - b. Self control - means I can control all my desires and fulfill them in the way and time that is approved by God.

² p.20-21 Spiritual Sword Vol. 13 #1 Oct. 1981 -"The fruit of the Spirit is self-control" by Lindsey D. Warren

3. Example of Joseph - Gen. 39:9 "...How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God.?"
4. Gal. 5:24-25 - Walking in the spirit is the way to overcome sexual sins.

III. SINS OF GODLESSNESS

A. Idolatry

1. The worship of idols or images - Mt. 6:24
2. Col. 3:5 "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:"
 - a. The error of idolatry is the worship of the created thing rather than of the Creator of all things.
 - b. Anything that comes between us and God or that keeps us from worshiping God is an IDOL!
 - c. We cannot serve material things and God at the same time. Mt. 6:24
 - d. We are idolaters when we make things other than God Himself first in life, such as:
 - (1) Our job
 - (2) Our house
 - (3) Our family
 - (4) Our hobby
 - e. 1 Jn. 5:21 "Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."
3. Often Idol worship and sexual immorality are closely connected.

4. Two Functions of Idols
 - a. Localize - make God as something very close at hand
 - b. Visualize - make God something we can see with our own eyes
5. It is simply designed to make it easier to worship the god represented by the idol.
6. What happens is that people end up worshiping the idol or image itself
 - a. This is illustrated in many areas of Catholicism
 - b. The leaders say it is not an idol, only an "icon"
 - c. That which is "created" begins receiving adoration which is really due the "Creator" !
7. Rom. 1:19-23

B. **Witchcraft** - "Sorcery" = ASV NKJV

1. Facts about witchcraft
 - a. It is a nature religion
 - b. They perceive Deity as male and female = the Goddess and the God
 - (1) The Goddess is seen as Mother Earth and Mother Nature - and is represented by the Moon. She is seen in the fertility of the plant, animal and human kingdoms. Her power is at a peak in the "fertile half" of the year - in this hemisphere from May until October
 - (2) The God is seen in the woodlands, the Sun, grain and the hunt. Because most of the animals that ancient humans hunted had horns, He is usually depicted as the "Horned one". His power is at a peak in the "dark half" of the year, from October to May

- c. They believe in the Wiccan Rede which says: "If it harms none, do what you will." ----- Do whatever you want; just as long as it doesn't harm anyone - including yourself. They use the word "Karma" which is the idea that if you do something bad to others it will come back to you three fold.
 - d. It is a religion that is involved in what they call "Channeling" Or spell casting - Magic
 - e. The word for Witchcraft religion is "Wiccan"
2. Used in talking about people who used drugs especially in charms and incantations.
 3. In the practice of witchcraft they often used drugs
 4. Today this term would also apply to the taking of drugs.
 - a. Medicine that is prescribed by a physician for our health would not be wrong.
 - b. But the taking of drugs in violation of the law and not for our health would also be wrong and condemned by this word.
 - c. Alcohol, though legal, is a drug and is wrong. But this sin is covered in the next verse.
 5. Acts 19:19 "Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver."
 - a. Curious arts - some form of astrology which is connected with witchcraft
 - b. They burned their books.

IV. HOW TO OVERCOME THESE SINS OF GODLESSNESS

A. The Fruit of the Spirit called "Faith" will overcome these problems

1. The word faith means - trust, confidence, belief
2. It is used in talking about conviction or belief in God and Christ.
3. Heb. 11:6

B. There is only one God

1. Eph. 4:6 - "One God and father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."
2. Witchcraft would have us believe there is another god and this is absolutely wrong.
3. Idolatry causes us to put our trust in something made by man rather than the true and living God who is eternal.

C. There is only ONE Faith

1. Eph. 4:5 "One Lord, One faith, one Baptism"
2. Faith = refers to the way of truth
3. Jude 3 "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort [you] that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

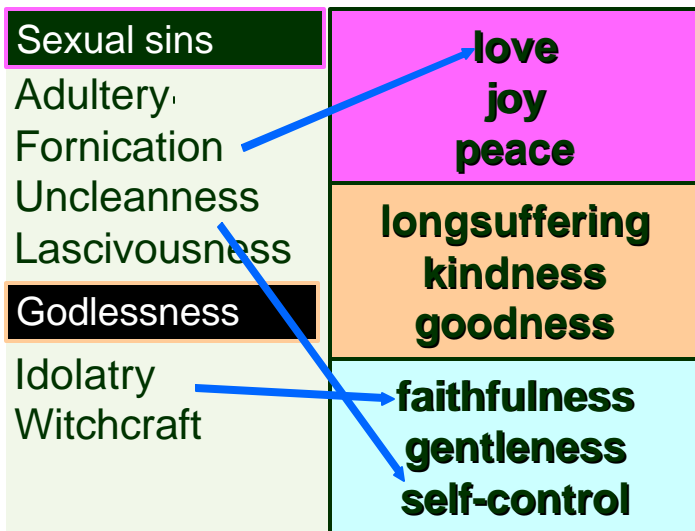
D. The way that our faith is made stronger is through the Bible

1. Rom. 10:17 - This is the way faith begins
2. This is the only way faith will continue - our faith will die or be destroyed if we do not feed it properly.

3. Gal. 5:22 "Faith" = translated faithfulness in the ASV
 - a. Faithfulness means - reliability, loyalty, trustworthiness
 - b. Christians must be loyal and faithful in their service to God.
 - c. When we are strong and know God's word then we will not be deceived into following anything that would take us away from the true and living God.

Conclusion

1. These Sexual Sins and sins of Godlessness can be overcome by making sure we have put on the fruit of the spirit.
2. Notice how we overcome these sins:



3. Gal. 5:17 "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."