

✓ 1. First Summary

Pastor-focused summary:

The sermon opened with a reading from Galatians 5:13 through 6:10, with focus placed on Galatians 5:19-21 -- Paul's sobering list of the "acts of the flesh." The pastor emphasized that this list is not unique to Galatians; it appears in several other epistles and is confirmed by Peter and John, all showing a shared, Spirit-inspired understanding of sin in the early church.

The list is given in direct contrast to the fruit of the Spirit. Each sinful action has a counteraction in the Spirit's fruit. Jesus himself illustrated this contrast in Matthew 7:15-20, warning that a tree is either good and bears good fruit, or bad and bears bad fruit -- there is no in-between.

The pastor challenged the assumption that this list only applies to "the worst sins" that other people commit. He stressed that the call is not to measure ourselves against others, but against God's word. Even small traces of sin -- contempt instead of love, sarcasm, gossip, irritability, envy, favoritism, or indulgence in "respectable" sins -- reveal roots of the same acts of the flesh. Every "obvious sin" has a "not-so-obvious" related expression that can creep into our lives.

While sin in any form corrupts God's good gifts, the sermon reminded us that God's grace in Christ redeems, forgives, and cleanses us. We must feel the weight of conviction, but also rejoice in grace. The grace of God is not opposed to effort -- only to earning. Believers are called to effort in obedience, prayer, repentance, and walking in the Spirit. Sin is to be confronted, not excused. We must quickly repent when the Spirit convicts, and continually return to Christ who forgives and restores.

The message closed with a call to the Lord's Supper: to remember Christ's body and blood as the source of forgiveness and freedom. Communion is not empty ritual but active participation with Christ -- a time to prepare hearts, reconcile, repent, and rejoice in grace.

Overall view summary:

This sermon pressed believers to take Paul's list of sins in Galatians 5 seriously, not as an "extreme sins list" for others, but as a mirror for ourselves.

Every act of the flesh has a subtler, tolerated expression, and even these corrupt God's holiness.

The sermon contrasted obvious sins with hidden ones, public with private, unrespectable with "respectable." All lead to death apart from grace.

Yet the good news of Christ's sacrifice means believers can confess, repent, and be cleansed daily.

The Spirit's role is vital --

- ★ convicting us of sin,
- ★ empowering obedience, and
- ★ producing fruit in us.

The Lord's Supper was framed as the natural response: coming to Christ's table to remember, repent, and rejoice in his redeeming grace.

✓ 2. Scripture References

Scripture Reference	Description
Galatians 5:13-6:10	Full passage read; freedom in Christ, works of flesh vs. fruit of Spirit, bearing one another's burdens, sowing and reaping.
Galatians 5:19-21	Central focus; list of acts of the flesh and warning of exclusion from the kingdom of God.
Romans 1:29-31	Parallel list of sins condemned by Paul.
1 Corinthians 6:9-10	Sins listed that exclude from inheriting the kingdom.
Ephesians 5:3-5	Another warning list against impurity and greed.
Colossians 3:5	Call to put to death earthly sinful desires.
2 Timothy 3:2-4	List of ungodly behaviors in the last days.
1 Peter 4:3	Peter's list of pagan behaviors from the past.
Revelation 21:8	John's list of those who are excluded from eternal life.
Matthew 7:15-20	Jesus' teaching on false prophets, and good vs. bad trees and fruit.
1 Samuel 15:23	Samuel's rebuke to Saul: rebellion is as witchcraft, arrogance as idolatry.
Matthew 5:21-22	Jesus equates anger/hatred, with murder.
Matthew 5:27-28	Jesus equates lustful looks, with adultery in the heart.
Galatians 5:16	Key principle: walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
Psalms 139:23-24	David's prayer: "Search me, O God, and know my heart... see if there is any wicked way in me -- and lead me in the way Everlasting."

✓ 3. Important Points

The seriousness of sin

- Paul's list in Galatians 5:19-21 is echoed throughout Scripture, showing a Spirit-inspired shared understanding.
- These sins stand in direct opposition to the fruit of the Spirit; each has a corresponding virtue that cancels it.
- Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7 illustrates that there are only two categories -- good tree with good fruit, or bad tree with bad fruit.

Avoiding self-righteous comparisons

- It's easy to assume this list applies only to "others."
- We often grade ourselves by comparison, but God's standard leaves no middle ground.
- Testing ourselves by our own scale is deceitful; we must evaluate even traces of sin.

Not-so-obvious sins

- Every obvious sin has a related subtle form:
 - Hatred may appear as contempt, sarcasm, or indifference.
 - Discord may emerge through gossip or slander.
 - Jealousy through constant comparisons or refusal to celebrate others.
 - Fits of rage reduced to irritability, “righteous anger,” or road rage.
 - Selfish ambition starting as self-promotion.
 - Dissensions shown in contrarianism or refusal to yield.
 - Factions expressed as favoritism toward certain groups.
 - Envy expressed by withholding generosity.
 - Drunkenness paralleled by smaller indulgences “under control.”
 - Orgies mirrored in approval of unbounded sexual expression.
- **Hidden sins may seem “respectable,” but sin is sin -- they desecrate God’s holiness.**

The danger of tolerating sin

- Obvious sins are public and widely condemned, but hidden sins are often excused.
- Sin, whether obvious or subtle, grows and leads to death and separation from God.
- “And the like” captures all forms -- anything driven by fleshly desire.

The grace of God in Christ

- Conviction of sin is necessary, but not meant to drive us to despair.
- Believers are saved by grace, not by works. Christ redeems, forgives, and adopts us.
- Grace is not opposed to effort -- only to earning. Believers must actively respond to God’s grace with obedience, prayer, repentance, and walking in the Spirit.

Responding with repentance and faith

- Conviction should ultimately lead to rejoicing in grace, not discouragement.
- Blamelessness is not perfection, but quick repentance, when the Spirit convicts.
- Daily we must rehearse the gospel truths that cleanse and sustain us.

The Lord’s Supper as response

- Communion is an invitation to remember Christ’s sacrifice -- not a ritual to either perform or avoid.
- Communion is participation with Christ, a reminder of our freedom from sin through his blood.
- Preparation involves reconciliation, repentance, and opening our hearts to God’s grace.
- Believers are encouraged to let God’s love overwhelm them as they come to the table.

4. Second Summary

Overview

This session centered on Galatians 5:13–6:10 with a focused status update on Galatians 5:19–21 (“acts of the flesh”) as a direct contrast to the “fruit of the Spirit.” The Pastor reinforced a dual emphasis:

- ★ rigorous self-examination for even subtle (“not-so-obvious”) sins and
- ★ sustained reliance on the Holy Spirit, grounded in grace that saves without negating disciplined effort.


The Lord’s Supper was positioned as an immediate, practical means of remembrance, repentance, and renewal.

Current Focus and Status

- Focus Area: Acts of the Flesh (Galatians 5:19–21)
- Status: Presented as a shared New Testament consensus on “obvious sins” and explicitly contrasted with the fruit of the Spirit; framed as a diagnostic for spiritual health.
- Formation Practices
- Status: Reiterated that: grace is not opposed to “effort,” but to “earning,” -- calling for intentional practices that align our life with the Spirit.

Obvious vs. Not-So-Obvious Sins

Obvious Sin (Galatians 5:19-21)	Not-So-Obvious Expression (from sermon)
Hatred	Contempt, sarcasm, indifference instead of love
Discord	Gossip, slander, subtle feeding of contention
Jealousy	Constant comparisons, refusal to celebrate others
Fits of rage	Irritability, “righteous anger,” road rage, bitterness
Selfish ambition	Self-promotion, desire for recognition, “look at me”
Dissensions	Always contrarian, refusal to yield, pushing own opinion
Factions	Favoritism toward certain groups, implicit divisions
Envy	Withholding generosity or love because others “have enough”
Drunkenness	Smaller indulgences “under control,” letting appetites rule
Orgies	Acceptance of unbounded sexual expression, premarital sex, sexting
Sexual immorality	Lustful imagination, thought life influenced by what we view
Impurity	Inappropriate humor, vulgarity
Debauchery	Private indulgence (pornography), leading toward public excess
Idolatry	Career, possessions, pursuits, or even people elevated as idols
Witchcraft	Harmless “fun” superstitions, horoscopes, manipulative behavior
<i>And the like</i>	All tolerated or “respectable” sins we justify as not extreme

 *Note:* This shows the pastor’s main teaching -- that every “obvious” sin has a “respectable” or subtle form we may excuse in ourselves, yet both come from the same sinful root.

- Subtle forms: measured indulgence under the guise of control; progressive yielding to fleshly desires.
- Grace and Warning
- Saved by grace: unconditional love, redemption, forgiveness, adoption, gift of eternal life.

- Warning stands: persistent, unrepentant continuation “living like this” excludes from the kingdom; the issue is ongoing rebellion, not momentary failure.

- Focus shift: continual return to Christ to avoid despair under conviction.

- Lord’s Supper Emphasis

- Participation as communion with Christ and remembrance of His sacrifice.

- Heart preparation: confession, repentance, reconciliation where needed; receive God’s love and assurance.

Key Discussion Points

- Theological Foundations

- Scriptural Grounding:

- Galatians 5:13–6:10 (core text)

- **Cross-references:** Romans 1:29–31; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Ephesians 5:3–5; Colossians 3:5; 2 Timothy 3:2–4; 1 Peter 4:3; Revelation 21:8

- **Diagnostic images:** Matthew 7:15–20 (good tree/bad tree), 1 Samuel 15:23 (rebellion/witchcraft), Matthew 5 (anger/adultery of the heart)

- Evaluation Principle:

- No spectrum of “good enough” -- trees are either good or bad by their fruit.

- Use God’s standard, not comparative self-righteousness.

Risks and Mitigations

- Risk: Self-righteous comparison blinding self-assessment.

- Mitigation: Evaluate by biblical standards; look for even “traces” of sin patterns.

- Risk: Normalizing “respectable” subtle sins.

- Mitigation: Name and repent of not-so-obvious forms; seek accountability.

- Risk: Despair under the weight of conviction.

- Mitigation: Rehearse the gospel daily; fix attention on Christ’s finished work.

- Risk: Continuing unrepentant patterns (“living like this”).

- Mitigation: Prompt repentance; diligent use of spiritual disciplines; active participation in the Lord’s Supper; reconciliation with others.

References

- Galatians 5:13–6:10; Romans 1:29–31; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Ephesians 5:3–5; Colossians 3:5; 2 Timothy 3:2–4; 1 Peter 4:3; Revelation 21:8; Matthew 7:15–20; 1 Samuel 15:23; Matthew 5

✓ Action Items

- **Examine your life for “not-so-obvious sins.”**

- Don’t excuse contempt, sarcasm, gossip, irritability, envy, or indulgence as harmless.

- Ask the Spirit to reveal even the small traces of sin that reflect the same roots as Paul’s “acts of the flesh.”
 - **Respond quickly to conviction.**
 - When the Holy Spirit brings something to light, repent immediately.
 - Practice “blamelessness” by not holding on to willful sin -- bring it to God in confession and surrender.
 - **Walk daily by the Spirit.**
 - Rely on the Spirit’s power to cultivate love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
 - Remember: grace is not opposed to effort -- actively pursue obedience, prayer, Scripture meditation, thanksgiving, and fellowship.
 - **Rejoice in God’s grace through Christ.**
 - Let conviction lead you to gratitude, not despair.
 - Regularly rehearse gospel truths: you are forgiven, cleansed, and made new in Christ.
 - Use the Lord’s Supper as a time to remember, rejoice, and recommit to living free in him.
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 **Bonus:**

Contrasting the Acts of the Flesh and the Fruit of the Spirit

Act of the Flesh (Galatians 5:19-21)	Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
Sexual immorality	Faithfulness (loyalty, purity)
Impurity	Goodness (moral integrity, holiness)
Debauchery (excess, lack of restraint)	Self-control
Idolatry	Faithfulness (devotion to God)
Witchcraft	Gentleness (yielded to God, not controlling others)
Hatred	Love
Discord	Peace
Jealousy	Forbearance (patience), compassion
Fits of rage	Gentleness, patience
Selfish ambition	Kindness
Dissensions	Peace
Factions	Unity through Love (expressed in kindness & faithfulness)
Envy	Joy (contentment in God’s gifts)

Act of the Flesh (Galatians 5:19-21)**Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)**

Drunkenness


Self-control

Orgies

Self-control

And the like

All the fruit together

 *Note:* In some cases, more than one fruit could serve as the “counter-action” (e.g., selfish ambition is opposed by kindness, humility, and faithfulness). Each sin has been aligned with the fruit that most directly counters its tendency, while keeping the chart clear and balanced.