



WALKING ON WATER  
BIBLE CHURCH

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# Overcoming Temptation

Works of the Flesh  
Vs Led by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-26

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# Galatians 5:16-26

- I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.
- 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.
- 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

# Galatians 5:16-26

- 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,
- 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; 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.
- 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

# Galatians 5:16-26

- 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.
- 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

# Original Sin

- A term referring to the universal defect in human nature caused by the fall, entailing the loss of original righteousness and the distortion of the image of God (imago Dei).
- Original sin is the doctrine that, as a result of Adam's fall, all mankind are sinners by nature, having a propensity to sin that underlies every actual sin
- Joel B. Carini, "Original Sin," in *Lexham Survey of Theology*, ed.

# Paul's Warning

- Galatians 5:19–21 lists the works of the flesh.
- These describe patterns produced by sinful nature.
- Those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

# **Adultery — moicheia**

- **Sexual unfaithfulness violating the marriage covenant.**
  - Violating marital covenant
  - Secret or ongoing extramarital relationships
  - Emotional affairs leading to betrayal
  - Destruction of family trust and stability



# Fornication — porneia

- **General sexual immorality outside God's design for marriage.**
- All sexual activity outside biblical marriage.
  - Pornography and sexual addiction
  - Casual sexual culture normalized by society
  - Living together sexually outside covenant commitment



# Uncleanness — akatharsia

- **Moral impurity or inward corruption expressed outwardly.**
  - Moral impurity of mind and behavior.
  - Entertaining impure thoughts
  - Consuming immoral entertainment
  - Dirty speech and sexual joking
  - Habitual indulgence in sinful desires

# **Lewdness — aselgeia**

- **Shameless sensual behavior without moral restraint.**
  - Public or bold sexual behavior
  - Loss of moral embarrassment
  - Flaunting sinful lifestyle choices
  - Pride in immoral living

# Idolatry — eidololatria

- **Giving devotion to anything that replaces God.**
  - Loving money or success more than God
  - Career or ambition replacing devotion
  - Self becoming the ultimate authority
  - Entertainment and pleasure replacing worship

# **Sorcery — pharmakeia**

- **Occult practices and magical arts linked to spiritual darkness.**
  - Witchcraft or magical practices
  - Seeking supernatural guidance apart from God
  - Drug use connected with spiritual experiences
  - Consulting horoscopes, mediums, or spells

# Hatred — echthrai

- **Ongoing hostility or enmity toward others.**
  - Refusing reconciliation
  - Harboring grudges
  - Desiring harm toward others
  - Deep-seated resentment

# Contentions — eris

- **Quarreling and argumentative division.**
  - Always arguing
  - Creating unnecessary disputes
  - Thriving on disagreement
  - Dividing relationships through strife

# Jealousies — zelos

- **Resentment over another's blessings or success.**
  - Comparing oneself to others
  - Bitterness over another's success
  - Feeling threatened by others' growth
  - Competition instead of celebration



# **Outbursts of Wrath — thymoi**

- **Explosive anger and uncontrolled rage.**
  - Sudden rage reactions
  - Verbal or emotional attacks
  - Loss of emotional control
  - Destroying relationships through anger

# **Selfish Ambitions — eritheiai**

- **Self-seeking pursuit of advancement over others.**
  - Promoting self over unity
  - Using others to get ahead
  - Ministry competition or politics
  - Seeking recognition rather than service

# **Dissensions — dichostasiai**

- **Divisions that fracture communities or churches.**
  - Splitting groups and friendships
  - Creating sides within churches
  - Refusing unity efforts
  - Driving wedges between believers

# **Heresies — haireseis**

- **Factions formed around opinions rather than truth.**
  - Forming camps around personalities
  - Promoting personal views over truth
  - Doctrinal pride causing division
  - Loyalty to group over Scripture

# Envy — phthonoi

- Pain or resentment over another's prosperity.
  - Secret resentment of blessings
  - Wanting others to lose advantage
  - Bitterness over another's promotion
  - Lack of gratitude for one's own blessings

# Murders — phono

- **Taking life or hatred leading toward violence.**
  - Physical violence
  - Hatred that wishes harm
  - Destroying reputations maliciously
  - Emotional cruelty leading toward destruction

# **Drunkenness — methai**

- **Habitual intoxication and loss of self-control.**
  - Dependence on alcohol or substances
  - Escaping reality through intoxication
  - Loss of judgment and restraint
  - Lifestyle centered around drinking



# Revelries — komoi

- **Wild parties marked by immoral excess.**
  - Party culture promoting sin
  - Nightlife centered on excess
  - Celebration without moral boundaries
  - Group environments encouraging sin

# And the Like

- Paul indicates this list is not exhaustive.
- Any behavior flowing from sinful desires applies.

# **Application: Overcoming Temptation**

- Sinful practice begins with surrendered temptation.
- Victory comes by walking daily in the Spirit.
- Temptation resisted leads to spiritual growth.

# Walk in the Spirit

- Galatians 5:16 — Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
- Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with one unified fruit produced by the Spirit.
- ‘These are not separate fruits but one Spirit-produced character expressed in many ways.

# Love (ἀγάπη — agapē)

- **Self-giving, sacrificial love seeking the good of others. Love of God**
  - Loving when it is undeserved
  - Seeking others' well-being above personal comfort
  - Forgiving offenses
  - Serving without expecting repayment
  - Loving enemies, not just friends

# Joy (χαρά — chara)

- **Deep inner gladness rooted in God, not circumstances.**
  - Inner stability during trials
  - Confidence in God's sovereignty
  - Gratitude regardless of situation
  - Celebration of others' blessings
  - Hope that overcomes discouragement

# Peace (εἰρήνη — eirēnē)

- **Inner calm and relational harmony given by God.**
  - Resting in God's control
  - Freedom from constant anxiety
  - Seeking reconciliation in conflict
  - Refusing drama and hostility
  - Stability in uncertain times



# **Longsuffering (μακροθυμία — makrothymia)**

- **Patient endurance toward difficult people and situations.**
  - Patience with slow growth in others
  - Enduring offense without retaliation
  - Waiting without resentment
  - Showing grace under pressure
  - Remaining calm when provoked

# Kindness (χρηστότης — chrēstotēs)

- **Gentle goodness expressed toward others.**

- Speaking gently instead of harshly
- Showing compassion to the hurting
- Being approachable and gracious
- Offering help without being asked
- Treating others with tenderness

# Goodness (ἀγαθωσύνη — agathōsynē)

- **Active moral goodness that seeks what is right.**
  - Standing for truth with love
  - Choosing righteousness over convenience
  - Helping others toward godly living
  - Rejecting compromise
  - Living with moral integrity

# Faithfulness (πίστις — pistis)

- **Reliability and loyalty produced by trust in God.**
  - Keeping commitments
  - Dependability in service and relationships
  - Loyalty to God and His truth
  - Consistency in Christian living
  - Perseverance in difficult seasons

# Gentleness (πραΰτης — prautēs)

- **Strength under control; humble meekness.**
  - Correcting others without harshness
  - Responding softly in conflict
  - Humility instead of pride
  - Controlled responses instead of aggression
  - Teaching with patience

# **Self-Control (ἐγκράτεια — enkrateia)**

- **Mastery over desires and impulses.**
  - Resisting sinful urges
  - Controlling emotional reactions
  - Discipline in habits and choices
  - Saying no to fleshly cravings
  - Living deliberately, not impulsively

# Paul's Conclusion

- Paul ends by saying:
- “Against such there is no law.”
- Meaning:
  - No law condemns these qualities.
  - These virtues fulfill God's moral will.
  - A Spirit-led life naturally pleases God.



# Victory In Christ

- Realize we have all fallen into temptation
- Submit to Christ in all areas of weakness
- Repent...
- Turn to Christ...