

Small Group Studies



'Bringing God and people together'

The Fruit of the Spirit - Part 3 Works of the Flesh

Right before the Bible mentions the fruit of the Spirit, it speaks of the works of the flesh. You don't hear much spoken on this topic, as we tend to dwell on the good, but it is in the Word of God, so we need to address it.

Gal.5:19 -21 "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I told you in times past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

All of the above fall into 3 categories of - spiritual, sexual and relational. These things can never be justified or excused. To continue to practice these things will lead any person to eternal ruin. The bible says that they are evident, meaning that we all have a personal knowledge of such things.

Discuss the above statement.

Q What hope is there for a Christian, considering that we have all sinned (as Christians)?

You cannot just do one of these things without a consequence. They are damaging to our soul life and although we may hate the sin, we tend to recommit the sin and continue do what we hate without finding an inner spiritual freedom that is only found in Christ

Q What can we do if we are repeatedly struggling in a particular area, even after prayer?

A fruit is grown by God in the garden of our lives and cannot be manufactured. To grow good fruit will take time and effort. Many kinds of fruit trees will produce no

fruit for several years. All of us, however, can do these works or actions of the flesh with ease. Like weeds they can pop up overnight and make the garden of our own lives look ugly.

Q What are we to do with the weeds that grow in our lives?

A few verses later it says that those who are in Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Gal.5:24

Q What does that mean, considering we still get tempted and do sin?

The book of Hebrews teaches us to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises of God. It may be a good time to consider any adjustments that may need to be made in your own personal life. Bible study, meditation on the Word, regular prayer and worship, consistent attendance in church are all apart of what God calls us to do.

Read Gal.6:7-8