

## CHRIST CREATES NEW PATTERNS IN YOUR LIFE.

Galatians 5:16-21

*But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

*<sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

- The Goal: *Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh* – 5:16

### Augustine's 3 stages of living

- a. Lust – No restraints on the flesh.
- b. Law – Motivated by fear, loss, and the threat of punishment.
- c. Love – Motivated by love for God and people.<sup>1</sup>

- But...there's a **struggle** between your flesh and the Spirit – 5:17-18

*For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

Q: Why would we gratify the flesh?

A: It's fun and feels good... momentarily.

- The Apostle Paul is speaking of **patterns** of behavior – 5:19-21a  
*Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,<sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,<sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.*

Q: What happens when we gratify the flesh?

A: The **fun** quickly fades and the guilt **sticks** – 5:21b

*I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Q: What do we do with our guilt?

- **Deny** it.
- **Shift** it.
- **Confess** it.

1 John 1:8-10

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.<sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.<sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

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<sup>1</sup> Mark J. Edwards, ed., *Ancient Christian commentary on Scripture: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1999), 85.