

## A War of Desires

### Galatians 5:16-21

January 27, 2019 – Pastor Nick Neves

When it comes to Christian freedom, we are called to walk a narrow path. When we put too much emphasis on our behavior, we run the risk of veering into the ditch of \_\_\_\_\_. When we put too much focus on personal freedom, we are in danger of falling into the ditch of \_\_\_\_\_.

Thankfully, through the grace of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit, we've been given the ability to walk through life in a new way.

**Paul points out that two desires are present in every earth-bound believer:**

1. The desires of the \_\_\_\_\_

2. The desires of the \_\_\_\_\_

It is important for us to understand that in a very real sense, the war has already been fought and won for us by \_\_\_\_\_. The chosen are destined to win this battle though we may face struggles and set backs along the way, Jesus promised us in John 19:30 that the true work is already finished!

**How do we fight this battle? In Galatians 5, Paul uses 4 different verbs to describe the Spirit controlled life:**

- Verse 16: \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit
- Verse 18: Be \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit
- Verse 25a: \_\_\_\_\_ by the Spirit
- Verse 25b: Keep in \_\_\_\_\_ with the Spirit

\*The general idea that Paul is communicating here is that the Spirit Controlled life is not a matter of adding two or three religious activities to your otherwise self-controlled routine. The sum total of our lives needs to be directed by the presence and power of God's Holy Spirit, which has come to dwell in the hearts of all who have put their trust in Jesus Christ.

Since the desires of the flesh are set against the desires of the Spirit, should I reject desire altogether? Are the things in life that I enjoy automatically evil?

**Sin is not just the violation of a rule - sin is an attack on \_\_\_\_\_...**  
(see Deuteronomy 7:9, 1 John 4:7-8, 1 John 2:4-6)

Sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, orgies...  
These actions are love \_\_\_\_\_.

Idolatry, sorcery, envy, drunkenness...  
These actions are love \_\_\_\_\_.

Divisions, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of rage, rivalries, dissensions...  
These actions are love \_\_\_\_\_.

\*These particular sins are likely listed because of the impact they have on those around us, as members of the \_\_\_\_\_ of faith, which is of particular concern to the Apostle Paul and these churches in Galatia.

But we see here they also impact the heart of the \_\_\_\_\_.  
**Verse 21** – “I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Paul is not condemning anyone who has committed these 15 sins, or sins like them, to unavoidable judgment. The word 'do' here in the Greek is a **Present Participle in the Active Voice**. It indicates ongoing, continual action. In other words, if this list describes the way you walk through life, then there is a lack of repentance and a need to walk in the Spirit. The real Christian will stumble and fall from time to time, but the present leading of the Holy Spirit will help them rise and do battle again.