
Series: Learning How to Please God Pleasing God With My Actions

Galatians 5:19-26 (NIV)

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

1. I CAN CHOOSE TO DO WHAT COMES NATURALLY.

- My nature of sin is obvious to all who know me.

v. 19a *"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious..."*

- Unless I choose to take action, sin progresses down its normal course.

James 1:13-15 (NKJV)

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.¹⁴ But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.¹⁵ Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

Colossians 3:5 (TEV)

You must put to death, then, the earthly desires at work in you, such as sexual immorality, indecency, lust, evil passions, and greed (for greed is a form of idolatry).

- The practice of one or more of these sins as a matter of lifestyle or habit can be evidence of an un-regenerated heart.

v. 21 *"...those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."*

- I can choose an alternate path that leads to righteousness.

Proverbs 4:23-27 (NLT)

Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do.²⁴ Avoid all perverse talk; stay far from corrupt speech.²⁵ Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you.²⁶ Mark out a straight path for your feet; then stick to the path and stay safe.²⁷ Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

2. I CAN CHOOSE TO DO WHAT COMES SUPERNATURALLY.

- The fruit of the spirit is all the virtues in one package.

v. 22-23a *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control..."*

- When I surrender my life to Christ, I am freed from the bondage of the sinful nature.

v. 24 *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires."*

John 8:34 (NASB-U)

Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin."

Romans 6:6 (NLT)

Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

2 Peter 2:17-19 (NIV)

These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them.¹⁸ For they mouth empty, boastful words, and by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.¹⁹ They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity--for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

- Allowing the Spirit to direct our lives keeps us in touch with our identity in Christ.

v. 25 *"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."*

Ephesians 3:16 (NIV)

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.

God always gives me a choice as to whether or not I follow my sinful nature or His Spirit that dwells in me.