

PNEUMANETICS

ORIGINAL

BOOK 5

THE SELF-LIFE

BY
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WORKBOOK

DAY ONE

FLESH

APPENDIX A: INDWELLING SIN AS THE ROOT PROBLEM

Paul speaks disparagingly of the flesh. To him it is the product of indwelling sin permeating man's body, turning man from a spiritual being into a fleshly one. We defined the flesh as "the outward working of the inward working of sin."

1. Read Galatians 5:17. How powerful is the flesh?

Basically, the flesh is the soul and body operating apart from and without the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. While this may be normal to the non-Christian, the Christian is not supposed to operate in the flesh. Unfortunately, not only does it happen, it happens often.

2. Read Romans 8:5-8. How does Paul say the mind set on the flesh behaves toward God? What do you think he means by that?

3. Read Galatians 5:19–21. You might call these things “the fruit of the flesh.” List any of these characteristics that you see (or have seen) in your own life.

4. What is Paul’s warning in Galatians 5:21b?

While sin is no longer an issue with God, holiness is a very decided one. Those of us who hold to the necessity of Christians living a holy life—the security of the believer—don’t think for one moment that gives anyone an excuse to sin. God’s worst judgment will come against those who use the truths of grace as an excuse to sin.

Indwelling sin made man fleshly, which in turn produced the self-life. This is the leftover product of the nature we inherited from Adam. The soul, which has dominated our lives until our conversion, does not take its demotion easily, nor does it abdicate willingly. It is a battle we can only win by walking and living in the Spirit.

DAY TWO

FLESHLY ACTIVITIES

We've already introduced you to a chart of the activities of the flesh. Here it is again to help you with your assignment for Day Two.

1. The list that follows contains many more characteristics than just those that Paul lists in Galatians. That's because we cultivated this list from the entire Bible. (Even so, this list certainly does not include every fleshly activity.) As you read through this list, mark any of these characteristics that are currently active in your own life.
2. Compare our list here to the one Paul offers in Galatians 5:19-21.

ACTIVITIES OF THE FLESH

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Unrighteousness | 11. Slander |
| 2. Wickedness | 12. God-hating |
| 3. Control | 13. Insolence |
| 4. Malice | 14. Arrogance |
| 5. Envy | 15. Boastfulness |
| 6. Murder | 16. Inventing evil |
| 7. Strife | 17. Disobedience |
| 8. Swindling | 18. Untrustworthiness |
| 9. Double-mindedness | 19. Lacking understanding |
| 10. Gossip | 20. Unloving |

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----|-----------------|
| 21. | Worldliness | 45. | Strife |
| 22. | Defilement | 46. | Jealousy |
| 23. | Souliness | 47. | Anger |
| 24. | Disorderliness | 48. | People pleasing |
| 25. | Despising authority | 49. | Selfishness |
| 26. | Bondage | 50. | Anxiety |
| 27. | Lack of mercy | 51. | Favoritism |
| 28. | Impure motives | 52. | Quarreling |
| 29. | Immorality | 53. | Disputes |
| 30. | Deceitfulness | 54. | Dissensions |
| 31. | Covetousness | 55. | Factions |
| 32. | Idolatry | 56. | Carousing |
| 33. | Reviling | 57. | Lying |
| 34. | Drunkenness | 58. | Stealing |
| 35. | Disloyalty | 59. | Bitterness |
| 36. | Fornication | 60. | Wrathfulness |
| 37. | Self-abuse | 61. | Clamoring |
| 38. | Effeminacy | 62. | Filthiness |
| 39. | Homosexuality | 63. | Silly talk |
| 40. | Theft | 64. | Coarse jesting |
| 41. | Impurity | 65. | Passion |
| 42. | Timidity | 66. | Evil desires |
| 43. | Sorcery | 67. | Viciousness |
| 44. | Enmities | 68. | Partiality |

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|------|------------------|
| 69. | Guile | 86. | Selfish ambition |
| 70. | Unkindness | 87. | Legalism |
| 71. | Hypocrisy | 88. | Perversion |
| 72. | Hatefulness | 89. | Sensuality |
| 73. | Impurity | 90. | Fleshliness |
| 74. | Faithlessness | 91. | Contentiousness |
| 75. | Foul language | 92. | Lustfulness |
| 76. | Licentiousness | 93. | Foul-mindedness |
| 77. | Dissipation | 94. | Unruliness |
| 78. | Enticing | 95. | Pride |
| 79. | Empty conceit | 96. | Doubt |
| 80. | Quenching the Spirit | 97. | Abuse |
| 81. | Greediness | 98. | Disbelieving |
| 82. | Resisting the Spirit | 99. | Uncleanness |
| 83. | Grieving the Spirit | 100. | Divisiveness |
| 84. | Adultery | 102. | Manipulation |
| 85. | Laziness | 103. | Self-willfulness |

DAY THREE

DEFINING THE DEEDS OF THE FLESH

Carefully study this Inventory of the Deeds of the Flesh. Although most are prevalent in our society, after you have read the entire list, mark the ten that you think most affect the Church.

APPENDIX A Inventory of the Deeds of the Flesh

Fornication – Sex act between unmarried couples. In the Bible, all sexual contact is forbidden unless sanctified by marriage. There are those who feel that pre-marital sex is allowable if those involved later become married. This is a subtle lie, for it allows the act of marriage to make right what God condemns. Sex outside of marriage is wrong.

Impurity (Katharsos) – Opposite of pure. Comes from a root that can mean “pus from an unclean wound” or “an untrimmed tree.” Impurity makes man unfit to come before God. Man becomes soiled by the things that separate him from God.

Wantonness (Licentiousness) – Unrestrained passion for any pleasure. To do whatever comes to mind. See Mark 7:22, 2 Corinthians 12:21, Galatians 5:19, 1 Peter 4:3, Jude 4, Romans 13:13, and 2 Peter 2:18.

Idolatry – To worship things or objects other than the true God as revealed in the Christian Bible. Idolatry is not restricted to the worship of an idol, but extends to the worship of anything apart from God.

Witchcraft – Use of drugs. Comes from the same root word as our word “pharmacology.” In ancient times (as well as now), drugs were used to engender responses that seem supernatural. Drugs and the occult are often intertwined.

Enmity – One who is chronically hostile toward others. Combative, resisting, resentful.

Strife – Divisive, combative, competitive, argumentative, quarreling, wrangling. Contention that is born of envy, jealousy, and desire for prestige, position, and prominence.

Jealousy – To desire what someone else has. “They have it. I don’t. I want it.” Our word “zeal” derives from the word for jealousy (Zelos).

Envy – The most warped and twisted of all human emotions. It not only wants what you have, but it wants to deny you of it.

Anger (uncontrolled temper) – A hot, rushing volcanic anger or rage; bursts of anger. Comes quickly and leaves quickly. A contrived anger. Comes from the Greek word thumos.

Self-Seeking – Selfish ambition. Seeking position rather than function. Asking, “What can this situation do for me?” vs. “What can I do for this situation?”

Dissension – A standing apart; disunity, individualism, factionalism. The opposite of a team player.

Heretical Division – Polarization. Our word “heresy” comes from this word. Divided by words and concepts that are not Biblical.

Drunkenness – Excessive drinking to the degree that the will is impaired by the loss of personal control.

Carousing – Unrestrained revelry; mob orgy.

Lying – The opposite of truthfulness. Justifying behavior that would embarrass or convict. Satan is the author, the father of all lies.

Wrath (orge) – Long-lived anger; chronic anger. An angry person. The threshold of bitterness.

Thievery – Stealing or taking what does not belong to you.

Grieving the Spirit – Doing that which the Bible forbids. Causing grief to the Spirit by what one thinks and does. Behavior that disregards the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Quenching the Spirit – Putting out the fire and zeal of the Holy Spirit. Allowing pride and position to overrule the moving of the Spirit of God.

Bitterness – Long-standing resentment; unresolved anger; refusing reconciliation.

Clamor – Out-shouting someone else; loud talking; drowning out the opinions of others with loud and/or boisterous speech.

Slander – Finding fault with others and spreading it throughout the Church.

Malice – A vicious character; bad in quality.

Evil – The opposite of justice. Robbing God and man of his due.

Villainy – Destructive evil. Attempting to make others as bad as yourself. (This characteristic absolutely defines Satan.)

Lust (possessiveness) – Never fulfilled, always wanting more. The desire that knows no law. Desiring things one has no right to.

Viciousness – Essential badness; complete degeneracy. Hurting others simply for the sake of it.

Disobedience – Obstinate, stubborn, refusal to obey.

Wrong Desires – Passionate desire for forbidden pleasure. Desires that go beyond reason.

ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENT

Read Galatians 5. Contrast the deeds of the flesh with the fruits of the Spirit.

DAY FOUR

OVERCOMING

A basic truth of the Bible is that what God demands, God provides. God demands holiness, something we cannot produce in our own strength. Holy living demands that we involve God within and without. Knowing our helplessness against the power of sin and the flesh, God has provided a divine process for us to overcome it. We have referred to this “**Principle of Identification**” before, and we will continue to. It’s so important that it bears repeating over and over.

From Romans 5:12 through Romans 8:17, Paul lays out God’s master plan for Christian living. While people may try many plans, this is the only one that works. Here and in future books we will address this issue of seeing reproduced in our own lives the things that God desires for us to reproduce in others.

1. Read Romans 5:12-21. What is/are the key thought(s) expressed in this passage?

2. Read Romans 6. What is/are the key thought(s) expressed in this passage?

3. Read Romans 7. What is/are the key thought(s) expressed in this passage?

4. Read Romans 8:1-17. What is/are the key thought(s) expressed in this passage?

DAY FIVE

SUMMARIZING

The Church has always warned against the self-life. We recognize it as the greatest danger not only to the life of the Church, but also to the individual Christian. It is critical that we understand how serious it is if we are to experience a victorious walk in our lives.

1. Can we overcome the flesh in and of ourselves? Explain why or why not.

2. What does it mean for something to be “totally evil?”

3. Is it possible for a Christian to be carnal? Provide examples that support your answer.

4. In your own words, what is soulishness?

5. Why is it necessary for the Holy Spirit to work in us?

6. What does Paul instruct us to do in Galatians 5:16? What does that mean?
What does he say will be the outcome if we do what he says?

7. What does Paul tell us in Galatians 5:18? What does this mean?

8. In Galatians 5:25, what does Paul tell us we should do? Why do you think this mattered to him? How can you do what he said?
