

## RESTORING THE ESSENTIALITY OF A NEW LIFE

### INTRODUCTION:

1. When one obeys the primary requirements of the gospel, the culminating act being baptism, which puts one into Christ (Gal. 3:27), and at the same time brings Christ into him (I John 3:24; Gal. 2:20).
2. The new life this brings about is the state of the Christian being in Christ and of Christ being in the Christian.
3. The Christian must realize that the old life is passed away and never must be lived again if he expects to go to heaven when he dies ( II Cor. 5:17; Col. 3: 9 - 10).
4. The new creature begins his new life deeply loving Jesus, more than any other in all the world ( Matt. 10:37; Rev. 2:4)

(1) He seeks to please Christ above all else.

(2) He realizes that his life is no longer his to be lived in ways that would please the selfish, carnal nature, but he has been purchased and redeemed by Christ, and now his life belongs to Christ and is to be used in His service and to His glory ( I Cor. 6:20; Rom. 12: 1 - 2).

### I. CHRISTIANS CANNOT LIVE AFTER THE FLESH AND WALK IN THE SPIRIT AT THE SAME TIME

1. Paul said "*walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh*" --Gal. 5:16
2. The member of the church who walks after the flesh is spiritually dead -- I Tim. 5:6
3. Christians are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts -- Tit. 2: 11 - 12
4. Christians are not to love the world -- I John 2: 15 - 17
5. Christians must refrain their tongues from evil -- I Pet. 3: 10 - 11

### II. THE WORKS OF THE FLESH IN GALATIONS 5: 19 - 21

1. Sins of Sensuality, Adultery, Fornication, Uncleaness and Lasciviousness are sins against chastity.

(1) Adultery -- unfaithfulness to the marriage bed.

(2) Fornication -- is unlawful relations on the part of married or unmarried people.

(3) The penalty for adultery under the law of Moses was death -- Lev. 20:10; Deut. 22:22

(4) The adulterer stands condemned by the gospel of Christ -- Rom. 13: 9; Matt. 5:28; Prov. 6: 32

(5) The New Testament reveals that this sin may be committed in three ways:

1. By the act of illicit intercourse

2. By looking lustfully -- Matt. 5:28

3. By a divorced person marrying for any reason other than fornication -- Matt. 19:9

(6) Paul wrote, "*To avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband*" -- I Cor. 7:2

(7) "Uncleaness" is all that is opposite of purity; every form of moral defilement

(8) "Lasciviousness" means "unbridled lust, shamelessness, wanton manners, filthy words, and all else that tends to stir up or produce lewd emotions.

1. The Dance -- the appeal of the modern dance has its foundation in human passion

2. Exposing the body in public is lascivious -- I Tim. 2:9; Matt. 5:28

## 2. Sins of False Religion -- Idolatry and Witchcraft

- (1) Idolatry is the worshipping of false gods
- (2) Men do not have to bow down to graven images in order to be guilty of this sin.
- (3) Covetousness is idolatry -- Col. 3:5
- (4) It is idolatry to love money, family, pleasure, or any person place or thing more than the things of God -- Matt. 6:24
- (5) "Witchcraft" -- was sorcery or magic

## 3. Sins against Men -- Gal. 5: 20 - 21

- (1) These are nine in number: "*hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders.*"
- (2) This group of sins has to do with the attitude of the heart toward others.
  1. "Hatred" is great dislike or aversion and want of love, producing strife.
    - (1) This attitude is opposed to brotherly love and kindness
    - (2) Hearts full of hate have committed every conceivable sin.
  2. "Variance" is the contentions toward which hatred leads, resulting in lawsuits and all forms of disputes.
  3. "Emulations" mean jealousy and envy leading to strife; the desire to excel at the expense of another; hence, seeking to build up one's self by injuring another.
  4. "Wrath" is sudden bursts of anger, turbulent passions, resulting often in broils and acts of vengeance.
  5. "Strife" is contending in anger and discord
  6. Strife leads to "Seditions", dividing into kindred groups.
  7. Seditions leads to "Heresies" or factions or parties; separate parties in the church.
    - (1) The unity of the church is fundamental New Testament doctrine, and when men divide the body into factions, divisions and parties, being determined to have their own way regardless, they commit a great sin against both the Lord and His church.
    - (2) Such is hated by the Lord -- Prov. 6:19
  8. "Envyings" are harmful feelings aroused in the heart over the success of others and is everywhere a fruitful cause of strife.
    - (1) Most church troubles are connected in some way with envy.
  9. "Murder" signifies the taking of human life, but in the New Testament it has a wider meaning.
    - (1) He who hates his brother is a murderer -- I John 3:15

## 4. Sins of Intemperance -- "Drunkenness" and "Revelings"

- (1) Drunkenness is the habit of indulging in intoxication -- Gal. 5:21
- (2) Revelings are carousals, lascivious feastings with obscene songs, and any kind of riotous or unseemly conduct -- Eph. 5: 3 - 5

5. "And such like"

(1) This covers all other works of the flesh not specified here

(2) II Tim. 3: 2 - 5

Donald Townsley

(Vinemont, AL 1971; Underwood Hts. Florence AL 1971)