

SPIRITUAL
WARFARE

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

It is a battle between the impulses of the flesh (our instinct along with the culture around us) and the leading of God's Spirit.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, ^[a] drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do ^[b] such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal. 5:19-21

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Moral Sins

The first groups of bad fruit are:

Sexual immorality, impurity and lustful pleasures (or debauchery).

Sexual sin is a major problem for many reasons. Sexual sin with another person (either physically or through other forms of porneia) grieves the Holy Spirit. It affects many others, not just the one sinning. It displays a graphic self-centeredness. It dishonors those made in the image of God. It violates God's pure plan for marriage. It is totally opposite of the fruit of the Spirit, especially love. (Exalting Christ in Galatians p. 114)

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Religious Sins

Idolatry and Sorcery.

Fill in the blank of these sentences:

- The only time I miss weekly worship is when _____.
- The only time I don't spend time with God in the morning/or evening is when _____.
- The only time I don't encourage my children to attend youth meetings is when _____.
- The command I have the most difficulty obeying is _____.
- When I lay awake nights I am usually thinking about _____.

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Sorcery involves the practice of trying to manipulate circumstances or dark powers to bring about a desired goal rather than submitting to and trusting in God alone. Today people read horoscopes to find meaning, and many believe superstitious actions will somehow manipulate events. This is the work of the flesh. (112-113)

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- **Social (Interpersonal) Sins**
- **Quarreling and Outbursts of Anger**
- **Jealousy, Selfish Ambition, and Envy are also Competitive Attitudes!**
- **Dissension and Division**

4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions^[a] are at war within you?^[b] ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
(James 4:1-3)

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Drunkennes

Such people do things that:

Embarrass them,

Embarrass the people that are with them,

Hurt others,

Destroy or damage relationships,

And destroy their testimony.

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²⁹ Who has woe? Who has sorrow?

Who has strife? Who has complaining?

Who has wounds without cause?

Who has redness of eyes?

³⁰ Those who tarry long over wine;
those who go to try mixed wine.

³¹ Do not look at wine when it is red,
when it sparkles in the cup
and goes down smoothly.

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³² In the end it bites like a serpent
and stings like an adder.

³³ Your eyes will see strange things,
and your heart utter perverse things.

³⁴ You will be like one who lies down in the midst
of the sea,

like one who lies on the top of a mast.^[h]

³⁵ “They struck me,” you will say,^[i] “but I was not
hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it.

When shall I awake? I must have another
drink.” (Proverbs 23:29-35)

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¹¹ Woe to those who rise early in the morning, that they may run after strong drink, who tarry late into the evening as wine inflames them!

¹² They have lyre and harp, tambourine and flute and wine at their feasts, but they do not regard the deeds of the LORD, or see the work of his hands.
(Isa. 5:11-12)

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

First, The Way We Live Our Lives Reveals Where Our Real Trust Resides.

- Am I controlled by my lusts or are my lusts under control?
- Am I feeding my mind with immoral materials?
- Is the Lord first in my life or does He come after several other things?
- Do I bring people together or do I seem to leave conflict scattered in my life?
- Am I an angry person?
- Do I have trouble rejoicing with those who rejoice?
- Do I look to substances to provide the peace, joy, and sense of security that should be coming from the Lord?

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Second, we see that Attitudes and actions (hidden and obvious acts) are judged equally.

Finally, we must battle the tendency to put the spotlight on others when we should be looking at ourselves.

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