

**Context**

- 1] You have been set from the Law by Jesus (5:1)
- 2] In this freedom, the thing that matters is faith expressing itself through love(5:6)
- 3] Don't use freedom to indulge sinful nature (5:13)

**MP** *Christians have a choice to sin or not – choose to follow the Spirit!*

**KV** *So I say live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature (16)*

Law	-----Self-----	Spirit
<b>Sinful desires -----</b>	-----	<b>fruit of the Spirit</b>
Sexual immorality, impurity		Love, joy, peace, patience,
Debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft		kindness, goodness
Hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of		Faithfulness, gentleness, self control
Rage, selfish ambition, dissension,		
Factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies		

**The choice (16-18)**

- 1] Either Spirit or sinful nature (16)

*\* Use your logic! Employ your will not to sin\*16*

*\*God is incapable of sin\**

*\*God gives life through the Spirit\**

- 2] mutually exclusive (17)

*lit 'these for each other opposes so that whatever things you wish these you do'*

*Ie you can and do make your mind up which you will obey*

- 3] If led by Spirit you are not under the law (18)

*?! Begun in the spirit made perfect in the flesh (sinful nature) ..? (3:3)*

*Cf Led by the Spirit (Luke 4:1; Rom 8:14) VS led by Satan (1 Cor 12:2; Eph 2:2)*

*\*Follow the Spirit not your sinful nature Know that you are not under the command of the Law\**

*\*God leads His children by His Spirit\**

**The sinful nature (19-21)**

- 1] Obvious (to those born of the spirit)

*Cf conviction of sin (John 16:8ff)*

*\*Listen to what you know about acts of the sinful nature\**

- 2] sexual immorality i.e.any sex outside of heterosexual, monogamous marriage.
  - Impurity Gk akatharsia - pus in unclean wound, life unfit for God
  - Debauchery Gk aselegia –readiness for any Godless pleasure
- 20 Witchcraft lit 'use of drugs' - +ve - could be medicinal. –ve - came to be associated with Witchcraft and Sourcery
  - Hatred (or enmity) cf between Serpent and woman (Gen 3:15)
  - Strife +ve = rivalry for a prize. –ve = quarrellings, wrangling
  - Jealous Gk zelos- +ve = desire for excellence, -ve = desire for that to which one has no right
  - Selfish ambition Gk Eristhea (cf Erithos – a hired hand) Came to be used as 'canvassing for political power'

- Factions Gk Hairesis meaning 'choice'. +ve = a gp of followers- ve = 'tribes at war' (eg Rangers and Celtic!)
- 21 Envy Gk Phthonos - not 'desire to have' (= jealousy), but 'grief at someone else's good'
- Orgies Gk 'Komos' +ve group of friends accompanying a victory,  
– ve unrestrained revelry

### 3] Warning (21b)

a) as before

\*heed the warning\*

b) not inherit the Kingdom of God

cf (1 Cor 6:9,10; 15:20)

God's Kingdom does not have any sin in it

## The Spirit (22-24)

### 1] Fruit

a) the Spirit

b) produce in the right conditions

### 2] Love

Gk *agape* - self giving, unilateral commitment

(Ps 33:11 Phil 1:4, 25, 4:4)

Peace

Peace with God through Jesus (Rom 5:1)

Patience

Gk *Makrothumia* eg way that Romans conquered world. Never made peace with enemy even in defeat

God with man (Rom 2:4; 9:22; 1 Pet 3:20)

Kindness

Gk *Chrestos* mellow – wine, easy – Christ's yoke (Mt11:30)

Goodness

total moral rightness eg clearing of Temple (Jn2:14ff)

### 23 Gentleness

Submissive to God's will (Mt21:5) / teachable (James 1:21) / considerate (Eph 4:2)

### 3] against – no Law

*\*You can't be ordered / compelled to love \**

*\*God's Spirit produces fruit in us not by our own efforts \**

### 4] Crucified sinful nature

Cf (Mk 8:34 cf 2:20)

*\*The power of the sinful flesh has been broken\**

*\*Believers in Jesus have dealt with their sin on His cross\**

## Message for 'the Galatians' (25-26)

### 1] Live by / keep in step with

*Nb and also walk in (16, 25) – Active and passive*

*Cf do what is see the Father doing (John 5:19)*

*Ie Seek... set your minds... think about (Rom8:5; Col 3:1,2, Phil 4:8)*

*\*We have a choice to walk in step with the spirit or not\**

### 2] Let us not – conceited, provoking, envying

*Nb the result of Law keeping – 'giving' relative amounts*

*\*Walking in step with the Spirit is the opposite of being conceited, provoking, envying each other.\**

## Conclusion

1] Belief can resist sin

2] Do it by following the Spirit