

Reading: Romans 7:14-25

Topic: Carnality or Spirituality

INTRODUCTION: In our aspirations as followers of Jesus Christ, we aim to be _____ but in our experience as followers of Jesus, we fall far _____ of that goal, we yet must not give up.

I. THE LAW:

A. Given By God:

1. The Law which comprised the Ten _____ plus the accompanying ceremonial rituals and laws was given by _____ Himself at Mount Sinai. Ex. 19:3-7
2. This was given to the people of God to be their _____ of conduct for when they would arrive and move into the _____ Land. Ex. 20:1-5

B. The Expression of God's Holiness:

1. The Law was the expression of God's true holiness in the _____ of human beings who were given this set of rules with the frightening _____ of a mountain on fire and billowing smoke along with the loud sounds of _____ and blowing trumpets. Heb. 12:18-21
2. When God gave the Law, He already knew that no _____ being on earth could live up to it, because at the same time He gave the Law, He also gave the pattern and plan of the _____, which was designed to make opportunity for people to _____ sacrifices for their sins. Heb. 10:1-3
3. When the Word of God states that the Law is spiritual, it is referring to the fact that it came from _____ Himself and was the picture of how God wanted man to _____ and behave. Rom. 7:14

II. THE CARNAL MAN:

A. Defined:

1. The word "carnal" is defined as "fleshly" which refers to the _____, the natural human body that we all live in and have to deal with every _____ of life. Rom. 7:14
2. The Word of God has references to the carnal _____, and also to carnal _____ along with the use of the word to describe carnal ordinances and commandments. Heb. 9:10

B. Behaviours:

1. We are born into this world with this carnal or _____ body and it comes along with a fallen human nature that very early begins to _____ itself in behaviors that are not godly. Ps. 51:5
2. The Word of God gives a long list of the _____ behaviors of the carnal man and all of those actions are contrary to the _____ law of God. Galatians 5:19-21
3. If there is no discipline of the _____ flesh, then all of the listed behaviors will eventually manifest themselves in individuals, and with discipline there is still no way to _____ all the bad behaviors of human actions.

C. Displeasing God:

1. The Word of God makes it very clear that those who live after the _____ cannot please God no matter how hard they may try. Rom. 8:8

III. THE CHOICE TO MAKE:

A. Born Again:

1. When we hear the Gospel, believe it and _____ it, there is a transformation that begins to take place in us that the Word of God describes as a new _____. 2 Cor. 5:17
2. That new life that is now in us provides the power for us to begin to live to _____ God and manifest the _____ of the Spirit instead of the _____ of the flesh.

B. Spiritual or Carnal?

1. We now have to make a choice about which behavior _____ we are going to follow – the path of spirituality to please God or do we succumb to the dictates of the _____ man and the flesh.
2. As the children of God, we may not have the temptation to fall prey to some of the _____ sins that are overtly manifested by the _____, but in the same list there are listed things that are displeasing to God – hatred, quarrels, jealousy, coveting, anger, divisions, etc. Gal. 5:20,21
3. If we do not nourish our spirits through daily _____, daily absorbing the _____ of God, daily praise and _____ to God, then we will manifest the _____ of the flesh. Gal. 5:16,25

C. The Key To Spirituality:

1. There is only one way to _____ in the manner that is pleasing to God and that is to walk in and to live in the _____ of God. Rom. 8:13
2. We are commanded to be the ones to make the choice to be _____ or _____ by our own actions, choices and behaviors. Eph. 4:20-24
3. Nothing is more pleasing to God than to see His people living their lives through the _____ of Christ and manifesting the fruit of the Spirit as they _____ in this dark world. 2 Pet. 1:3,4

CONCLUSION: We can lead others to salvation in Jesus Christ through living a _____ that reflects the love of Christ to this world or we can turn others away from the path of life by manifesting the carnal behaviors that will make it seem like we are no _____ than they are. Mt. 5:16