



## Enemy #2: The Flesh


Romans 8:12-17





## Genesis 4:6-7

The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it.”







## Genesis 6:5

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.








## Genesis 8:21

And when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma, the LORD said in his heart, “I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man’s heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.”







# Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?








# Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man,  
but its end is the way to death.







## Ephesians 2:3

...we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.







**The World  
The Flesh  
The Devil**





# Multiple Usages of the Word “Flesh”








# Multiple Usages of the Word “Flesh”

1. Sometimes it simply refers to the bodily.

**Philippians 1:22-24** If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

**1 John 4:2** By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God...








# Multiple Usages of the Word “Flesh”

1. Sometimes it simply refers to the bodily.
2. Sometimes it refers to human effort.

**Galatians 3:2-3** Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?








# Multiple Usages of the Word “Flesh”

1. Sometimes it simply refers to the bodily.
2. Sometimes it refers to human effort.
3. Sometimes it refers to sinful inclination.

**1 Peter 2:11** Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.





A decorative stained glass pattern in the top-left corner, featuring blue, yellow, and red geometric shapes.A decorative stained glass pattern in the bottom-right corner, featuring blue, yellow, and red geometric shapes, including a sunburst and a hand.

Does the Christian wrestle with the flesh?






After all, the Christian has been changed...

**2 Corinthians 5:16-17** From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

**Galatians 5:24** And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.








# And yet, the flesh is still active...

**1 Peter 2:11** Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

**1 Corinthians 3:1** But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.








## Romans 7:15-20

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.








## Galatians 5:16-17

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.







How should we think about our “newness”?







# How should we think about our “newness”?

1. Our status has been clearly changed.
- 





# How should we think about our “newness”?

1. Our status has been clearly changed.
2. We might place the accent on the relational newness.

The word “Christian” is found in the Bible 3 times.

The words “in Christ” are found in the Bible 165 times.








## Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

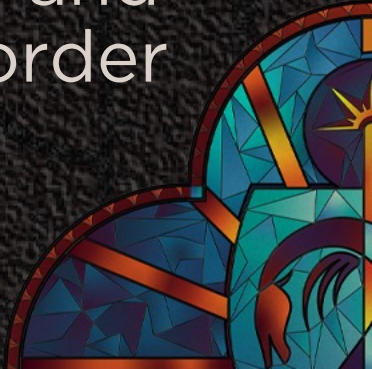






## Romans 8:12-17


So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.







# The Christian and The Flesh

1. We have been transformed, especially in that the Holy Spirit now dwells within us.
  2. Due to the Holy Spirit's presence, we have a new set of inclinations and longings for God the Father.
  3. Yet the flesh is still a real and present enemy.
  4. Therefore, we are engaged in an ongoing battle with the flesh, but we have the resources to overcome it.
- 





# Understanding the Enemy







# Understanding the Enemy

1. The works of the flesh can be subtle.







# Understanding the Enemy


1. The works of the flesh can be subtle.
  - The world has convinced us of the trustworthiness of our inner world.







# Understanding the Enemy

1. The works of the flesh can be subtle.
    - The world has convinced us of the trustworthiness of our inner world.
    - The flesh doesn't just express itself through obviously "bad" deeds.
- 






# Understanding the Enemy

1. The works of the flesh can be subtle.
2. The flesh is profoundly dangerous.

**Romans 8:12-13** So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.








# John Owen

## *The Mortification of Sin*

“Every time sin rises to tempt or entice, it always seeks to express itself in the extreme. Every unclean thought or glance would be adultery if it could; every covetous desire would be oppression; and every unbelieving thought would be atheism. It is like the grave that is never satisfied.”







# Putting to Death the Flesh








# Putting to Death the Flesh

1. Come to Jesus!

**Titus 2:11-12** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age








# Putting to Death the Flesh

1. Come to Jesus!
2. Cultivate relationship with God.

**John 15:9-10** As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.







# Putting to Death the Flesh

1. Come to Jesus!
2. Cultivate relationship with God.
3. Pursue Spirit-empowered self-control.

**2 Timothy 1:7** ...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.






A specific expression of the flesh...





## Galatians 5:19-21

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







# The Works of the Flesh

## Sensual Sins

Sexual immorality

Impurity

Sensuality

Drunkenness

Orgies







# The Works of the Flesh

## Sensual Sins

Sexual immorality

Impurity

Sensuality

Drunkenness

Orgies

## False Religion

Idolatry

Sorcery







# The Works of the Flesh

## Sensual Sins

Sexual immorality  
Impurity  
Sensuality  
Drunkenness  
Orgies

## False Religion

Idolatry  
Sorcery

## Relational Conflict

Enmity  
Strife  
Jealousy  
Fits of anger  
Rivalries  
Dissensions  
Divisions  
Envy







# James 4:1

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you?  
Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?








# 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?







# Putting to Death Strife








# Putting to Death Strife

1. Call it out as sin and repent.

**1 John 1:8-9** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.



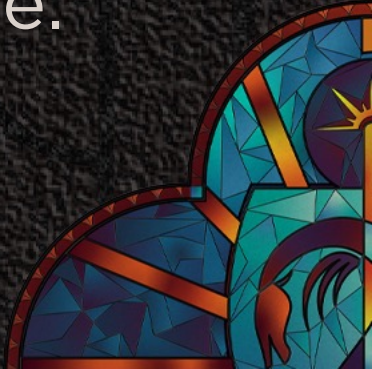




# Putting to Death Strife

1. Call it out as sin and repent.
2. Initiate conversation, perhaps with mediation.

**Philippians 4:2-3** I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.








# Putting to Death Strife

1. Call it out as sin and repent.
2. Initiate conversation, perhaps with mediation.
3. Replace bitter thoughts with biblical truths.

**Ephesians 4:31-32** Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.








# Putting to Death Strife

1. Call it out as sin and repent.
2. Initiate conversation, perhaps with mediation.
3. Replace bitter thoughts with biblical truths.
4. Forgive as we have been forgiven.

**Colossians 3:13** ...bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.







The Lord's Supper  
1 Corinthians 11:17-34