

Sunday 14th March 2010

The law, the flesh and the Spirit Galatians 5v13-26

It is for freedom that Christ has set us Free!...(v1)

... Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (v13)

if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. (v15)

The works of the flesh (v19-20)

- **Destructive sexual activity**; sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery... drunkenness, orgies
- **Destroyed relationships**; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy
- **Demonic worship**; idolatry and witchcraft

the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh,
Romans 8v3

If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits (stoicheia) of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—

“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.
Colossians 2v20-23

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The law is powerless to stop us sinning.

“You need to, you ought to, you should, you must try harder Christianity” will lead to shame, confusion, self hatred and unbelief.

Law = sin management

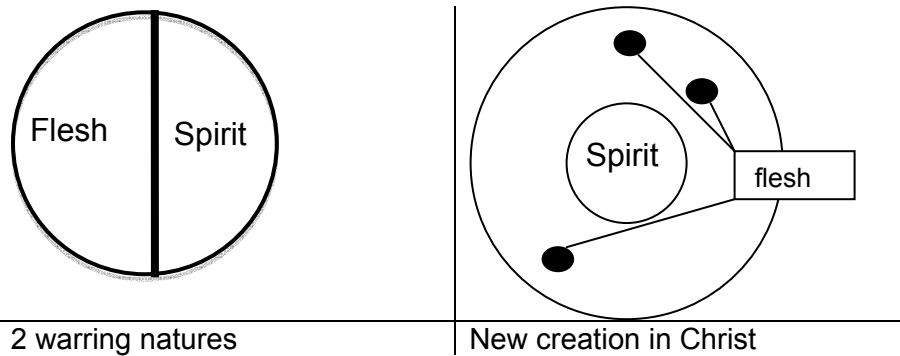
Understanding the relationship between the LAW & the FLESH.

V 24 the flesh with its passions and desires

The law attempts to manage the desires of the flesh, but doesn't address the root which is the flesh itself.

What is 'the flesh'?

[NB. – the NIV translates this word 'sinful nature', this is an unhelpful translation as it implies that the flesh is something intrinsic in us and part of our nature. – we only have one nature – our Spirit nature, new creations in Christ.]



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"the flesh is a worldview that is based upon a lie and that therefore opposes truth. The truth is that God originally created us to be completely dependent upon him. Rooted in the deception of Satan, the flesh says that we can do better by living independent from God."
Greg Boyd

The law is powerless against the flesh, because both of them are based on the same lie, living Independent from Jesus.

*You who are trying to be justified by law
have been alienated from Christ*
Galatians 5v4

The law attempts to imprison the flesh rather than crucify it.

V24 those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

We crucify the flesh, when we choose not to believe the lies of the serpent that we can live independent from God. But instead choose to die with Christ to our own selfish desires and Independence and live as his servants.

V25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

'lean in to hear his whispers'.