

“For who is there who does not labor under one or other of these sins? I reply: Paul does not threaten that they shall be excluded from the Kingdom of God all who have sinned, but all who remain impenitent. The saints themselves are heavily burdened, but they return to the way. Because they do not surrender, they are not included in this catalog. All the threatening of God’s judgments call us to repentance, for which pardon is always ready with God; but if we continue obstinate, they will be a testimony against us.” – John Calvin

The “practice” of these works is the opposite of “walk by the Spirit” in 5:16

#### Conclusion

- As you look at your life, what is the pattern you see?
  - Works of the flesh or walking by the Spirit?
- Humble yourself before the Lord – God gives grace to the humble, but opposes the proud.

## Our Lives Are the Litmus

Galatians 5:19-21  
January 21, 2010

#### Introduction

- We cannot lose the context in which it is written.
- Reality is, we all sin...

James 3:2 *We all stumble in many ways.*

#### 1. “Works of the *flesh*”

The “flesh” is who we are without God

“We need not sow thistles and brambles; they come up naturally enough, because they are indigenous to earth.” – Charles Spurgeon

#### 2. Identifying the Works of the Flesh

##### a. Sins of Immorality

*Sexual immorality* - Refers to any sexual sin of our heart, thoughts, eyes, body

*Impurity*

*Sensuality*

W. Barklay describes this sin as “a love of sin so reckless and so audacious that a man has ceased to care what God or man thinks of his actions.”

Jeremiah 6:15

**b. Sins of Idolatry**

All sin is God replacement

*Idolatry*

This is the worship of any non-god

What do you live for?

*Sorcery*

**c. Sins towards others**

Because the flesh hates and rejects God, it also turns us against other people

*Enmity and strife*

*Jealousy*

*Fits of anger*

*Rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy*

**d. Abuse of gifts from God**

*Drunkenness*

Ephesians 5:18

*Orgies*

**3. Beware Sin's End**

Our Lives are the Litmus

It is the continual, habitual practice of these things that marks a person as unregenerate.