



... Heart to Heart ...

We speak often of “fleshliness.” People say someone is being “fleshly” or acting “fleshly.” Do we really know what it means? Are we readily accepting the fact that someone is fleshly, but unwilling to recognize our own fleshliness? Being fleshly is not about our physical body, even though Scriptures can use it that way. Fleshliness is the opposite of being spiritual. It’s our natural desires and thinking that drive our lives. It’s our actions that react off our natural feelings that drive us forward.

God’s word tells us what fleshliness looks like and acts like. It can be easily seen in our lives and it must be dealt with or we will lose our souls because of it. In Gal. 5:19-21, we have listed for us the *“deeds of the flesh are evident.”* Let’s look closely at each one. **“Immorality”** is any sexual misconduct. **“Impurity”** is impure thoughts of the mind that are smutty and sensual. **“Sensuality”** (“debauchery”/“lasciviousness”) describes one who cares little about restraints in sensual matters that stir sexual lusts. It carries one to the point where public decency is ignored in dress or indecent body movements. **“Idolatry”** is anything held over God as their object of affection. **“Sorcery”** (“witchcraft”) is anything that deals with magic arts or sorceries. **“Enmities”** (“hatred”) is hostilities of the mind and heart, putting up barriers and being ready to fight. It’s the opposite of love. **“Strife”** (“discord”/“variance”) refers to contention, fighting, quarreling and wrangling. **“Jealousy”** (“emulations”) is a resentment of another’s good fortune or position. **“Outbursts of anger”** (“fits of rage”/“wrath”) is a passionate outburst as a result of being made angry. It’s a violent temper! **“Disputes”** (“selfish ambition”/“strife”) describes a self-seeker that wants things their way. It creates contention. **“Dissensions”** (“seditions”) are attitudes that cause divisions or those who separate themselves because of feuds. **“Factions”** (“heresies”) are cliques that are formed to follow their own ideas and thinking. **“Envy”** is a grudging spirit and feeling of displeasure when others get ahead of them. **“Drunkness”** is habitual intoxication from wine or strong drink. **“Carousing”** (“reveling”/ “orgies”) is a party spirit and actions that result from drinking parties and gatherings. Loud and disorderly conduct is associated with this.

These are deeds of our flesh and will cost us eternal life if we don’t deal with these desires properly. How are they dealt with? **“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”** (Gal. 5:16) Here lies the answer for us in Christ. Think about it.

Brent