

The Bible clearly shows that the inner being of a Christian is a battlefield where sinful desires clash with the indwelling Holy Spirit. Sometimes sinful tendencies win, but it is in the attitude toward sin that the genuine believer and the pretender show their true colours.

The counterfeit Christian is quite comfortable with his sin. But the child of God hates his sin, confesses it, and desires victory over it. This is because "those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5:24). The Christian can find no peace until he confesses his sins and repudiates them. As he relies on the Holy Spirit, he enjoys a pattern of victory over sin.

What about you? Take time for an attitude check. Are you comfortable with sin in your life? If you are, you need to examine your relationship with Christ (2 Cor. 13:5). --HVL

Thinking It Through

What is the conflict Paul discusses in Romans 7:15-23?

How can I gain victory over sin? (8:1-13).

How can I know I am a child of God? (8:14-17).

To love Christ is to hate sin.



Central Mountains Baptist Church

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Attitude Check

Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. --Galatians 5:24

In a television interview, a Christian spoke of a certain well-known man as having "a solid relationship with Christ." That statement raised a large question mark in my mind since the man's life is marked by vulgar speech, alcohol abuse, and flagrant womanising. I felt the need for evidence that he hates his lifestyle and wants to be different.





OUR CHURCH I'M SAVED, NOW WHAT? IV

Acts 2:41-47 contains numerous descriptions of the first church that are requirements for us:

1. **Saved membership**, verses 40-41, 36-38
2. **Baptised membership**, verses 38, 41
3. **Biblical teaching**, verses 41-42
4. **Genuine fellowship**, verses 42, 44-45
5. **Regular communion**, verses 42, 46, 41
6. **Praying together**, verse 42, Acts 4:23-31, 12:5, 11-17, 13:1-3, 21:3-6
7. **Godly membership**, verse 43, 5:11
8. **Godly leadership**, verse 43[*last time*]

(Galatians 5:16) "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

9. U _____, verses 40-44, 46, 6:5, 7

(1 Corinthians 3:3) "... For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?"

(James 4:1-2) "Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? {2} You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask."

(Philippians 2:1-4) "Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, {2} fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. {3} Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. {4} Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."

(1 Peter 4:8) "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins.""

(1 Corinthians 13:4) "Love suffers long ..."

(Matthew 5:23-24) ""Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, {24} "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way.

First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."

(Matthew 18:15-17) ""Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. {16} "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' {17} "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."



10. G _____, verses 44-46



(1 John 3:16-18) "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. {17} But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? {18} My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

11. _____ to _____, verse 46

(1 Peter 4:9) "Be hospitable to one another without grumbling."

(Mark 12:29-30) "Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. {30} 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment."

(Revelation 3:16) ""So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."

(Matthew 6:24) ""No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

(1 Kings 18:21) "... "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." ..."

(Joshua 24:23) ""Now therefore," he said, "put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel.""



12. P _____, verses 46-47

(Psalms 40:3) "He has put a new song in my mouth; Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD."

