

Reading: Galatians 5:13-26

Topic: Developing The Christ-Like Character # 1

Introduction: There are many of Christ's followers who by their _____ and conduct, give the Lord Jesus and His church a _____ name, which turns people away from God.

I. THE FLESH:

A. The First Birth:

1. The first birth that we have is our _____ birth which is called in the Scripture the birth of the flesh and gives us our _____ life. John 3:6
2. Though this _____ birth gives us life, it also brings with it a corrupt and fallen _____ which is unrighteous and leads on a downward path to _____ and wickedness. Ps. 51:5

B. The Fallen Flesh:

1. The Word of God is very _____ about this corrupt flesh and _____ that we are born with and reveals that we are not fit to go to _____ in this state. Rom. 8:7
2. No matter how hard one may try to be _____, the fallen flesh and _____ of humanity will not be able to live up to the measure of God's standard. Rom. 8:8
3. The Law of God and the Ten Commandments of the Old Testament was the _____ of God's plan of salvation in that time, but no one was _____ to measure up to it. Gal. 3:24

II. THE SECOND BIRTH:

A. The New Birth:

1. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross paid the price for our sins and opened the way for _____ to be able to _____ into the Holy Presence of God. Heb. 10:19,20
2. The process by which this takes place in the _____ of an individual is through a second birth, not of flesh, but a spiritual birth which Jesus Himself _____ of to Nicodemus. John 3:3-5

B. The Gospel & Obedience:

1. When one hears the Gospel preached – the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, one _____ and then _____ by repenting, being baptized in Jesus' Name and receiving the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38
2. This obedience to the Gospel brings about the Second Birth in the _____ of an individual, and in the Word of God the process is described as becoming a new _____. 2 Cor. 5:17
3. The Gospel and the New Birth are the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecy which _____ that God would write His law on the _____ of individuals so that they could live to please Him. Jer. 31:33

III. THE BATTLE BETWEEN FLESH & SPIRIT:

A. The Dream:

1. Many people have this concept when they are born again that they now have reached some _____ of a spiritual utopia where they will never be _____ or do anything wrong ever again.

2. Some people have even gone so far as to buy into a doctrine that _____ that once you have been born again, you cannot commit any more _____. I Jn. 3:9

B. The Reality:

1. The reality soon becomes clear to us, that though we have been born again, we are still very _____ and fleshly, and we sometimes make mistakes and fall _____ on our faces. I Jn. 1:8,9
2. It is not the will of God for any of his children to be daily living in _____ but in order to overcome, we must come to the place where we recognize that we are dealing with two _____ - called the _____ man and the _____ man. Eph. 4:22-24

C. Developing The Character Of Christ:

1. To see some of God's children behave in certain situations, one would never _____ that they are a Child of God because they are acting no differently than someone in the _____ would do.
2. This kind of behavior does not shine the _____ of Jesus into the dark world, but instead it may turn someone _____ from ever being saved.
3. God will begin to put us through a series of _____ and development stages in order to change us from a carnal, self-centered, poorly behaving person into a gentle, kind and _____ individual that will reflect the light of Jesus and _____ people to God. Mt. 5:16

CONCLUSION: If we are to please God and to _____ His light in this dark world, we must let Him work in us to make the necessary changes that will cause others to want _____ in their lives also.