

# Real Change 8

## Dealing with the flesh Part 2

Exercise

It natural

It feels comfortable

My way is right

# First importance

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

1 Corinthians 15: 3, 4

If this isn't true... “we are of all people most to be pitied”

# Romans 6 applies the resurrection to our lives

Do you not know.....

.. You were fused with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection

Our old self (old man) died with Him, and a new self (man) was resurrected

Our sins (every one, past, present and future) were left in the grave, remembered no more

Our sins will never be between us and God

# Paul lived Romans 6

I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

# Paul says “do the math, its true”!

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Rom 6:11

If our my man is dead, Christ lives in me, while do I struggle so much with sin?

Our experience tends to be the opposite

Why do I seem to be the same person I always have been? Am I supposed to be different?

We don't understand "*the flesh*" and "*sin*"

So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. Romans 7:

17

“The flesh” is not my old self (man) who died  
I don't have a “sin nature”... it is not my  
nature to sin after I have come to Christ

“*Sarx*”: the animal nature with cravings  
which incite to sin

Now the works of the flesh are evident:  
sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,  
idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy,  
fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions,  
divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and  
things like these.

Galatians 5: 19, 20

We are not in the flesh when we avoid  
these things, right?



# What if the flesh is more?

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble

1 Corinthians 1: 26

# Paul describes his flesh: Philippians 3

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

# We have two contrasting ways to live

Who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8: 4

Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5: 16

These two ways are opposed to each other

We are talking moment by moment living, not just at special “spiritual moments”, nor during specific sinful actions

# Flesh: definition

The ways and patterns by which you have attempted to get all your needs supplied instead of seeking Christ first and trusting him to meet your needs.

Gillham: *Lifetime Guarantee*

Personal techniques for meeting your own perceived needs apart from Christ... relying on your own ability instead of God's

McVey: *Grace Walk*

The flesh is more than “the animal nature with cravings which incite to sin”

The flesh is a way to think, a way to walk

The flesh works against the spirit

The flesh encourages self effort (Gal. 3: 3)

The flesh seeks identity and purpose

We choose to put confidence in our flesh

Andrew Farley: *The Naked*

*Gospel*

The flesh is how I live independent of God

My flesh is uniquely mine

# Where does my flesh come from?

The poser: John Eldredge

The false self: Brennan Manning

I spend my lives learning what will give me acceptance and avoid rejection

I strive for independence

I make life work for I, my way is right

We are not talking about “the animal instincts that incite us to sin”

# Many influences

Our parents

Our culture

The world system we live in

Our faith community

Traumatic events ..... positive events

Performance based acceptance

We learn how to live.... without God

The way I live is right, everyone else is wrong

Parking spot  
Gum

I know I'm right

I also feel others  
should change to  
my way of doing  
things



What's wrong?



# My way is right, other ways are wrong

John Eldredge: *“Love and War”*

“you have a style of relating designed to make life work for you....

..... we are, all of us, utterly committed and deeply devoted to our “style”, our “way”, our “approach to life”. We have absolutely no intention of giving it up.”

# We are all wrong

The way I live my life is my flesh

It has been shaped by other's flesh

It has been shaped by my culture (where do cultures come from?)

Because it works, I assume its right

I read scripture through our flesh, which reinforces my flesh patterns

Did I consult God in any of this?

# How does this show itself

Two methods of dealing with conflict

My love is controlling, manipulative,  
selfish

My behaviour patterns: parents

I can't change my flesh through the flesh

Romans 7 tells us “sin” is stimulated by  
law to cause the flesh to sin. I can't by  
my own strength change myself.

# Two ways of living as a Christian

Who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8: 4

Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.  
Galatians 5: 16

I can walk by the spirit, or I can continue to walk by the flesh with occasional episodes of walking in the Spirit

# How do we change?

We walk by faith, not by sight      2 Cor.  
5: 7

I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

