

The Fruit of the Flesh

Galatians 5:18-20a

The focus of Satan's efforts is always the same: to deceive us into believing that the passing pleasures of sin are more satisfying than obedience.

-Sam Storms

I. The Foundation

II. The Failure

Into the Bible

1. When we read lists of sins like the one here in Galatians or the one in Colossians 3:5, the temptation is to check all the boxes of those sins that don't characterize our lives while minimizing or ignoring the sins that do. Sins of the flesh begin with sinful desires of the heart. Read the parable that Christ gives in Luke 8:9-14 as a corrective to this attitude. Which of the protagonists do we identify most with if we are being honest?

Application

2. I John 1:8 is correct in saying we lie if we say we have no sin in us. I John 1:9 follows up by telling us to confess our sins to be forgiven and cleansed from our sins. What is the point of confession if we have already been forgiven our sins by Christ? How does David in Psalm 32:3-5 model for us what true confession involves and the reason it is needed?

3. If we are to achieve victory over sin Paul tells us bluntly in Romans 6:12-14 what is necessary on our part. But it can seem impossible (and truly is) to do this in our own strength. What does the author of Hebrews provide for us as a way out of our dilemma? Hebrews 4:15-16

For Families

4. Talk with your children about what confessing our sins to God does for us.