

**THE EXPERIENCE OF THE CROSS
FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Afternoon Message One

Crucifying the Flesh to Walk by the Mingled Spirit

Scripture Reading: Gal. 5:19-21, 24-26; Rom. 6:12-13; 7:18, 20; 8:4-14, 23; 12:1, 5;
Phil. 3:2-6; Col. 3:5

- I. The divine Spirit as the consummation of the processed Triune God is mingled with our human spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b; 6:17.**
- II. Man's body was corrupted by Satan to become the flesh—Gen. 2:7; Matt. 23:33; John 8:44:**
 - A. The God-created body, after being ruined and corrupted, became the Satan-occupied flesh, in which are the devil, sin, and death—Rom. 7:18.
 - B. In the flesh, Satan as the devil opposes and attacks God—Rom. 8:7-8.
 - C. In the flesh, Satan as sin ruins and corrupts man—Rom. 7:20.
 - D. The result is death—Rom. 8:10.
- III. The flesh is the uttermost expression of the fallen tripartite man—Gal. 5:19-21; 3:3 and note 2:**
 - A. The works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21 are of three aspects:
 1. Fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, bouts of drunkenness, and carousings are related to the lust of the corrupted body.
 2. Enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, factions, divisions, sects, and envyings are related to the fallen soul.
 3. Idolatry and sorcery are related to the deadened spirit.
 - B. Vainglory, provoking, and envying are all of the flesh—Gal. 5:26.
 - C. Losing one's temper, justifying oneself, and not wanting to forgive others are all spiritual leprosy—acts of the flesh—Lev. 13:24-25.
- IV. The flesh can never be improved—Rom. 8:7:**
 - A. God judged Noah's generation because it had become flesh—Gen. 6:12-13.
 - B. The Amalekites, a type of the flesh, were to be blotted out from under heaven—Exo. 17:14.
 - C. The Lord charged Saul to "utterly destroy" the Amalekites, not sparing anything—1 Sam. 15:3.
 - D. The flesh always lusts against the Spirit—Gal. 5:17.
 - E. Because the flesh does not change or improve, we need to pray without ceasing—Exo. 17:11-12; Matt. 26:41; 1 Thes. 5:17.
- V. By applying Christ's crucifixion on the cross, we crucify the flesh to live and walk by the mingled spirit—Gal. 5:24-25:**
 - A. The crucifixion of our old man and of the "I" is a fact accomplished by Christ on the cross—Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20.
 - B. The crucifixion of our flesh is our practical experience of this fact through the Spirit by executing the crucifixion which Christ has accomplished—Gal. 5:24.

- C. We crucify the flesh to live and walk according to the mingled spirit—Gal. 5:25:
1. To live means to have life (by the divine Spirit) and to have a living (implying our human spirit)—Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:38.
 2. To walk implies both a common, habitual daily walk (Gal. 5:16a; Rom. 6:4; 8:4; Phil. 3:17-18) and a walk that takes God's unique goal as the direction and purpose of the Christian life (Gal. 5:25; 6:16; Acts 21:24; Rom. 4:12; Phil. 3:16).
 3. When we exercise our spirit, the indwelling Spirit will help us to put Christ's death all the time on our flesh and on our fleshly passions and fleshly lusts—Col. 3:5.

VI. To crucify the flesh is to put to death the practices of the body—Rom. 8:7-13:

- A. Whenever the body acts without the Spirit or apart from the Spirit, that is flesh; the flesh is just the acting body—Gen. 6:3; Gal. 5:17.
- B. Paul did not say to put to death the body—this is asceticism—Col. 2:23.
- C. Our body needs to be redeemed, but the practices of the body need to be put to death—Rom. 8:23, 13.
- D. The Spirit has to kill every practice of our body, whether these things we practice are evil or moral—Rom. 8:13.
- E. We cannot afford to stay away from the Spirit. Day by day, hour by hour, and even moment by moment, we need to be in the Spirit; this is a constant daily exercise—Rom. 8:4.

VII. To crucify the flesh also means to have no confidence in the flesh—Phil. 3:3:

- A. Since our entire being—spirit, soul, and body—has been corrupted, we should have no trust or confidence in ourselves—Phil. 3:3-6; 2 Cor. 1:9.
- B. We should only boast in Christ—anything we do that is not Christ Himself is evil in the eyes of God—Phil. 3:2; 2 Cor. 1:12.
- C. The flesh is a hopeless case; it is here to help us and force us all the time, moment by moment, to turn to the spirit, to trust in the Lord, and to have no confidence any longer in our flesh—Rom. 8:6.

VIII. By crucifying the flesh, we can present our unemployed and released bodies to share in the practical and actual Body life—Rom. 6:12-13; 12:1, 5.