

# The Crucified Life (Guided Journey Through Paschal and Pentecostarion Seasons) - Handout

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## Introduction

The following are definitions of the anti-virtues and virtues that are delimited by St. Paul in his epistle (letter) to the Galatians.

The anti-virtues are the "works of the flesh", that the outcome of our initially willful consent to a sinful desire, that when repeated, becomes a habit, an enslavement, a passion. So each of what St. Paul lists is one of the passions.

St. Paul below teaches that the virtuous are the "fruit" of our union with the Holy Spirit within us--that is, our submission of our will to Him, instead of a sinful thought or desire, and the divine energies (grace) working in us to desire, will, and to do what it is impossible for us to do otherwise--to say no to sin, and yes to God and to do His will.

## The Crucified Life

We cannot fix our flesh, the old man--the only solution is that it must be put to death. This happens ontologically when we are joined in baptism to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. See Romans 6, 7, and 8.

In addition to the ontological change that occurs in baptism and chrismation (giving of the Holy Spirit to us), we must begin preparing ourselves for our physical death and final transformation into an unchanging immortal state of union with the Firstborn from the dead, Jesus Christ, as firstborn sons with them--he ontologically both God and man, and we like-god by grace through divinization (theosis, glorification) and ontologically a new kind of human--like Christ, but through eternity growing ever increasingly more like God because the Holy Trinity is infinite love and goodness.

## **From the Holy Scriptures (NKJV)**

### **1 John 3:1-3 St John the Theologian, the disciple "whom Jesus loved"**

1: Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2: Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3: And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

### **Galatians 2:19-3:3**

2:19: For *I through the law died to the law that I might live to God.*

20: *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

21: I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."

3:1: O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

2: This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

3: Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect

by the flesh?

## Galatians 5:13-26

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like;

of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

Against such there is no law.

24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25: If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

## **Definitions - the Works of the Flesh (Galatians 5:19-21)**

MAC Note: these are topically grouped, not in the order in Galatians.

## Sexual sins

- **Adultery** – Μοιχεία (*moicheía*): violation of the marriage covenant by sexual relations with someone other than one's spouse; a direct assault on family stability and on covenant fidelity before God.
- **Fornication** – Πορνεία (*porneía*): all forms of sexual immorality outside marriage—prostitution, premarital sex, incest, and other illicit unions, not only the narrow act of adultery.
- **Uncleanness** – Ἀκαθαρσία (*akatharsía*): moral and ritual impurity, especially impure sexual conduct, fantasies, and habits that stain the inner life and render a person unfit for God's presence.
- **Lewdness** – Ἀσέλγεια (*aselgeia*): shameless, unrestrained sensuality; a brazen disregard for moral boundaries, including provocative behavior, obscenity, and living as if public decency no longer matters.

## Religious perversions

- **Idolatry** – Εἰδωλολατρία (*eidōlōlatría*): giving ultimate loyalty, trust, or worship to anything other than the true God—both literal pagan cults and any created thing elevated to God's place (power, wealth, nation, self).
- **Sorcery** – Φαρμακεία (*pharmakeía*): use of spells, charms, drugs, and occult practices to manipulate spiritual forces or people, seeking control or power apart from reliance on God.

## Relational hostilities

- **Hatred** – Ἔχθραι (*échthrai*): settled hostility or enmity toward others, a deep-rooted attitude of ill-will that opposes love of neighbor.
- **Contentions** – Ἔρις (pl. ἔριδες) (*éris, érides*): a quarrelsome spirit that constantly stirs up arguments and disputes, especially factional strife within the community.
- **Jealousies** – Ζήλοι (*zēloi*): resentful desire for what another has (status, gifts, affection), leading to rivalry rather than rejoicing in another's good.

- **Outbursts of wrath** – Θυμοί (*thymoi*): explosive, uncontrolled anger that breaks out in verbal or physical aggression, damaging relationships and community peace.

## Community-destroying ambitions and divisions

- **Selfish ambitions** – Ἐριθειαι (*eritheiai*): self-seeking pursuit of position, influence, or advantage, using others as means to one's own advancement, especially in ecclesial settings.
- **Dissensions** – Διχοστασίαι (*dichostasíai*): standing apart and creating rifts in the community; deliberate refusal to maintain unity, often through party spirit or cliques.
- **Heresies** – Αἰρέσεις (*hairéseis*): party-formations or sects built around divisive teaching or loyalties, tearing the church into rival camps rather than nurturing communion in the gospel.

## Corrosive attitudes and excesses

- **Envy** – Φθόνοι (*phthónoi*): not merely wanting what another has, but begrudging them their good and wishing they did not have it; a cancerous inner posture opposed to love.
- **Murders** – Φόνοι (*phónoi*): taking another's life unjustly; in the broader biblical frame, the violent fruit of unchecked hatred and anger.
- **Drunkenness** – Μέθαι (*méthai*): habitual or episodic excess in drinking that impairs judgment, self-control, and responsibility toward God and neighbor.
- **Revelries** – Κῶμοι (*kômoi*): wild, disorderly drinking parties and orgies, often associated with pagan festivals, where intoxication, sexual immorality, and chaos go together.

## “And the like”

- **“And the like”** – Καὶ τὰ ὅμοια τούτοις (*kai ta hómoia touútois*): signals that

the catalog is illustrative rather than exhaustive; any practices springing from the same self-centered, God-resisting orientation belong to the same family and are likewise incompatible with inheriting the kingdom.

## **Definitions - the Fruit of Union with the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22–23 NKJV)**

MAC Note: Once we inwardly begin tasting the love God within us, and the profound peace that passes all understanding, and the joy of His love for us, we lose our desire for the the "joys and pleasures" of the things listed above (works of the flesh). Think of it this way--not what "I have to give up", but "what I get to be!" by the indwelling presence of the Holy Trinity.

### Fundamental dispositions toward God and neighbor

- **Love** – *Ἀγάπη (agápē)*: self-giving, patient, and sacrificial love that seeks the true good of the other, grounded in God's own gracious disposition rather than in attraction or utility.
- **Joy** – *Χαρά (chará)*: deep, Spirit-given gladness rooted in God's saving presence and promises, not dependent on external circumstances or success.
- **Peace** – *Ειρήνη (eirēnē)*: wholeness and reconciliation with God that overflows into inner calm and harmonious relationships with others, healing hostility and fear.

### Patient and generous character

- **Longsuffering** – *Μακροθυμία (makrothymía)*: patient endurance of provocation, suffering, and delay without retaliating or giving way to resentment; a slow-to-anger steadfastness.
- **Kindness** – *Χρηστότης (chrēstótēs)*: active benevolence, gentleness in dealing with others, and readiness to do good, especially to those who are weak or undeserving.
- **Goodness** – *Ἀγαθωσύνη (agathōsýnē)*: moral excellence and generosity in

action; a robust goodness that is willing even to confront or correct for the other's true benefit.

## Stable inward virtues

- **Faithfulness** – Πίστις (*pístis*): here, the quality of being trustworthy and loyal—reliable before God and others, steadfast in commitments and in confessing the gospel.
- **Gentleness** – Πραΰτης (*práytēs*): meekness, not weakness; strength under God's rule, expressed in a humble, non-domineering manner toward others, especially the vulnerable.
- **Self-control** – Ἐγκράτεια (*enkrátēia*): disciplined mastery over one's desires and impulses (especially bodily and emotional), ordering them under the Spirit rather than being ruled by them.

## “Against such there is no law”

- **“Against such there is no law”** – Κατὰ τῶν τοιούτων οὐκ ἔστιν νόμος (*katà tōn toioutōn ouk éstin nómos*): these qualities fully accord with God's will; no divine or human legislation can condemn them, for they embody the law's true intention fulfilled in the Spirit-led life.

## Galatians, Continued...Chapter 5:24 to 6:18

5:24: And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

25: If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

26: Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

6:1: Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

2: Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

3: For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

4: But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

5: For each one shall bear his own load.

6: Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

7: ***Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.***

8: ***For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.***

9: And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

10: Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

11: See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

12: As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.

13: For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh.

14: ***But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.***

15: For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.

16: And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

17: From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

18: Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.