

Living The Christian Life Series
“Lesson 15 Two Types of Production by the Believer”

By

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Series Text: Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

Applicational Text: Galatians 5:19-23 ¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Introduction:

Man is born with a body and soul with which he can understand and relate to human experience, but he must be born-again in order to have a human spirit so he can relate to spiritual things. God is spirit and must be worshiped in spirit and in truth. At salvation the believer becomes a trichotomous being – Body, Soul, and Spirit. And, as such he is capable of two types of production – legitimate and illegitimate.

When the believer is controlled by the Holy Spirit he produces the Fruit of The Spirit. When the believer allows himself to be seduced by his Old Man (The Old Sin Nature) he commits what the Bible calls Spiritual adultery and he fathers illegitimate children.

The Epistle of James teaches us that we have been delivered from the authority of the Old Sin Nature (our natural disposition to sin). However, James also establishes that we have not yet been delivered from the presence of the Old Sin Nature and must deal with the seductive attempts from our old nature.

In James 1:14 we see that we are tempted when we, *“...are drawn away of our own lusts and enticed....”*

We all have a Lust Pattern as part of the anatomy of the Old Sin Nature (our natural disposition to sin). It is dominant in one of three areas (1). The Lust of The Flesh – Sensuality: related to the satisfaction of our empirical senses; Sight, Hearing, Touch, Smell, and Taste. (2). Materialism: related to the acquisition of material things. (3). Pride: related to ego, recognition, and control. (I John 2:16)

Satan and his minions know our Lust Pattern and they use that knowledge to bait traps that appeal to our individual lust patterns. When we are seduced into taking the bait – sin is conceived.

It's like we sneak out the back door, hop over the fence, go down the alley to the Old Man's house and fornicate with him.

In our study today we are going to explore what happens when we allow the Old Sin Nature to seduce us.

Look at James 1:15:

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

This verse uses the imagery of human conception and childbirth as an illustration of sin and sets the background for our study today.

Let's look at it....

I. Exposition of James 1:15:

“...Then when lust hath conceived,....”

Committing sin is identified as “Spiritual Adultery.” We are betrothed to the Lord Jesus Christ, He is described in the New Testament as the Bridegroom and the church is described as the Bride. When we sin it is because we have been seduced by the Old Sin Nature - that is committing “Spiritual Adultery.” And, like King David of old, although we might sin in secret, we are often exposed in public. When conception occurs, it is often difficult to hide.

“...it bringeth forth sin....”

The phrase, “...bringeth forth sin....” is translated from the Greek phrase, “tiki hamartian” referring to the birth process and refers to the act of conception - sin is conceived.

“...and sin, when it is finished....”

The word “...finished....” is from the Greek word, “apo-teles-thei-sah” which means, “to come to full gestation,” be “fully formed.”

When sin has been conceived and comes to full gestation, then it...

“...bringeth forth death.”

The phrase, “**...bringeth forth death....**” is translated from the Greek phrase, “apo-kuei than ah-ton,” which means, “to deliver in birth.”

When Lust conceives it generates sin and when it reaches full gestation gives delivery to death. The death referred to here is Temporal Operational Death. When the believer has sin in his life his fellowship with God is broken and the Old Sin Nature is in control. So he has no spiritual production - that which is produced is wood, hay and stubble.

Now, let's look at the offspring of our spiritual adultery with the Old Sin Nature.

II. The Offspring of Spiritual Adultery:

Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

The word, “**works**” is from the Greek word, “erga” which identifies “production.” That which is produced by the “**flesh**” (Old Sin Nature) is identified by the names of 15 illegitimate children - 11 female and 4 males. I say 11 girls and 4 boys because there are 15 nouns used here, 11 are feminine nouns, and 4 are masculine nouns. In Greek grammar the feminine noun identifies a responder and the masculine noun identifies an initiator.

Let's examine each of these by name... The word “**adultery**” is not found in the Greek Text, so we begin with “**fornication.**” As we go through these you might check your own nursery to see if any of them belong to you.

1. Porneia - Feminine Gender – responder

Any form of sexual impurity. (Notice, this action is in response to something or someone.)

2. Akatharsia - Feminine Gender – responder

Moral Uncleanliness - that which lacks purity. (Notice, this action is in response to something or someone.)

3. Aselegeia - Feminine Gender - responder

Shameless behavior. (Notice, this action is in response to something or someone.)

4. **Eidolatria** - Feminine Gender – responder (coveting - a form of idolatry)
(Notice, this action is in response to something or someone.)
5. **Pharmakeia** - Feminine Gender – responder: Abuse of drugs. (Notice, this action is in response to something or someone.)
6. **Echthrai** - Feminine Gender – responder Hostility. (Notice, this action is in response to something or someone.)
7. **Eris** - Feminine Gender - responder Strife. (Notice, this action is in response to something or someone.)
8. **Dzaelos** - Masculine Gender = initiator of the action Jealously (desire to have what the other person has and for that person to be without). (Notice, this action is of one's own initiation.)
9. **Thumoi** - Masculine Gender = initiator of the action Uncontrolled anger. (Notice, this action is of one's own initiation.)
10. **Eritheiai** - Feminine Gender – responder Seeks to gain followers to himself. (Notice, this action is in response to something or someone.)
11. **Dichostasiai** - Feminine Gender – responder: Creates divisions in a fellowship. (Notice, this action is in response to something or someone.)
12. **Hairesis** - Feminine Gender – responder Self-willed opinions contradictory to and substituted for the truth. (Notice, this action is in response to something or someone.)
13. **Phthonoi** - Masculine Gender - initiator of the action of envy or displeasure upon witnessing the advantage or blessings of others. (Notice, this action is of one's own initiation.)
14. **Methai** - Feminine Gender – responder Drunkenness. (Notice, this action is in response to something or someone.)
15. **Komoi** - Masculine Gender - initiator of the action - Boisterous - behavior associated with and consequential to drunkenness. (Notice, this action is of one's own initiation.)

III. The Offspring of a Spirit Controlled Believer:

The production of a believer controlled by the Holy Spirit is identified in Galatians 5:22-23 as the fruit of the Spirit. The word fruit is singular, but there are nine feminine nouns that are used. A feminine noun identifies response – these nine nouns identify nine responses to being controlled by the Holy Spirit.

1. “love” (agape) = self-sacrificial love that manifests itself in giving and continues to love regardless of the response.

When the Holy Spirit produces love in the life of the believer he is:

- long tempered;
- treats the object of love in grace;
- is not motivated by self-interest;
- does not boast of himself to the disadvantage of the object of his love;
- is not inflated with self; does not bring shame on its self by its own behavior;
- does not plot to attain one's own goals; is not aroused to anger;
- does not keep an account of the evil done to it; does not express joy when the one loved is the victim of injustice;
- does express joy when the object of love receives justice;
- protects the object loved by covering that object and taking the blows intended for the object loved;
- puts trust in the object loved, has confident expectation in the object loved; and, abides at ease under all things. (I Corinthians 13)

2. “joy” (chara) “the condition of inner happiness accompanied by a sense of completeness and fulfillment.”

Joy is translated from the Greek work ‘chara’ and is much more than an emotion it refers to *‘the condition of inner happiness accompanied by a sense of completeness and fulfillment.’*

James 1:2-4 instructs us to, *“...count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”*

Joy is the state of happiness based on *“...being complete and entire wanting nothing....”*

3. “peace” (eirene) - a state of harmonious relationships

Peace with God is available to all who will call on the name of The Lord Jesus Christ.

Peace from God is available to all believers.

The **Peace of God** is only available to those who have established Peace with God and have received Peace from God and now have the Peace of God produced in their lives by the control of the Holy Spirit,

4. “longsuffering” (makrothumia) = long tempered

This Greek word encompasses the idea of forbearance and patience. It emphasizes the concept of patiently holding back any form of vengeance, punishment or retaliation. It is self-restraint in the face of provocation or trying circumstances.

It is that quality which does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial.

It is the opposite of despondency and is associated with confidence

5. “gentleness” (chrestotes) = gracious disposition and attitude

This is a noun identifying a quality in the Believer controlled by the Holy Spirit. Based on the root of Charis (grace) this word implies a combination of virtuous, mild, pleasant, kind, and serviceable, in both quality and action.

Uses of The Word Chrestotes In The New Testament: It is translated by the following words; graciousness, easy, good, goodness, kindness, and better in the New Testament.

This element gentleness is a gracious disposition and attitude expressing itself in actions described by words such as, *graciousness, easy, good, goodness, kindness, and better*.

6. “goodness” (agathosune) = that condition of character which is beneficial in its effect and emphasizes a moral quality...

The primary distinction between *gentleness* (chrestotes) and *goodness* (agathosune):

“gentleness” (chrestotes) = gracious disposition and attitude. This word emphasizes a kindness in dealing with others (gracing them).

“goodness” (agathosune) = good in character and beneficial in its effect. This word emphasizes that which is moral and beneficial and does not always deal kindly. If the situation demands ‘tough love’ this quality responds to the occasion and is not toned down out of a sense of compassion which sacrifices that which is good for that which is pleasant.

7. “*faith*” (pistis) = faithfulness

We do not receive faith as an element of the “*Fruit of the Spirit*” But, faithfulness is produced in us when we are controlled by the Spirit. This is not a verb which expresses action but a noun which identifies a position.

1. A Faithful and Wise Servant Is The One Who Continues To Do That Which The Lord Has Commissioned Him To Do.
2. The Unfaithful Servant Is The One Who Procrastinates Concerning Service.
3. The Faithful Servant Invests His Time and Talents Wisely.
4. The Emphasis of The Unfaithful Servant is Preservation Not Multiplication
5. Faithfulness Is A Principle Regardless of The Size of The Trust.
6. Faithfulness is Single mindedness - You Can’t Live For Self and God.
7. The Reward of Faithfulness Is A Crown of Life
8. Your Role In Eternity Is Determined By Your Faithfulness Here.

8. “*meekness*” (prauites) = an attitude that reflects an understanding that who and what a person is and what that person has is a result of grace and not of one’s own accomplishment. This attitude is one of being properly oriented to grace!

1. Meekness Is an Attitude of Grace Displayed In Action Toward Self
2. Meekness Is An Attitude of Grace Displayed In Action Toward God:
3. Meekness Is An Attitude of Grace Displayed In Action Toward Others:

9. “*Temperance*” (engkrateia) = self-control. This Greek word is a compound word made up of the Greek preposition ‘ehn’ and the word ‘kratos’ which means strength. Together they encompass the idea of being strong in a thing – self-control - the strength and ability to resist and continue in a situation without giving in to it.

This noun is used only in Acts 24:25; Galatians 5:23; and II Peter 1:6. It is used in the adjective form in Titus 1:8.

“*Against such there is no law*” -These are not the things the law denounces - But - these are the things that are produced when we live under a higher law - the law of the Spirit!

Conclusion:

After listing 11 feminine nouns and 4 masculine nouns as the illegitimate offspring of a believer out of fellowship, the passage concludes with the statement, “*...and such like....*” Then Paul reminds us that we ought not to do these things that are done by those who are not heirs of eternal life. We are Children of God and should not behave as though we were still children of this world. We have been born again – from above!

So, when we are controlled by the Holy Spirit we produce a quality of life that exhibits: Self-sacrificial love; inner Happiness accompanied by a sense of completeness; harmonious relationships; long-tempered; a gracious disposition and attitude; a condition of character which is beneficial in its effect and emphasizes a moral quality; faithfulness; an attitude that reflects an understanding that who and what a person is and has is a result of grace and not one’s own accomplishment; and, self-control.

Check your spiritual nursery at home and see how many of each of these two types of offspring are there, if any of these illegitimate offspring are at your house - confess your sin and move on.

Next time, The Lord willing, we will explore the biblical mechanics for dealing with temptation in order to avoid Spiritual Adultery and illegitimate offspring.

But it all begins at Salvation:

- *For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...*
- *The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life...*
- *With the heart man believes unto righteousness...*
- *But with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...*
- *For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!*

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,
acceptable unto God, which
is your reasonable service.*

(Romans 12:1)