

Title: The Manifest Flesh

Text: Galatians 5:19-21

Main Idea: The works of the flesh are deadly and must be avoided.

Division Statements:

1. The works of the flesh are obvious (v. 19).

φανερός (phaneros) - well known, clear, plain. Take time to discuss why this is so (Note Rom. 2:14-15). Also consider why these are called “works.” It is not because they take effort or are necessarily calculated to earn anything (e.g. envy), but because they come from a debtor-creditor mentality, that is, a heart that believes it deserves something better than what it’s getting.

2. The works of the flesh must be confronted (vv. 19b-21).

This is obvious from the actual listing of Paul and the statement in verse 21, “of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past ...” Confronting these sins was obviously a regular part of Paul’s ministry. At this point, uncomfortable as it may be, the faithful expositor must run through each individual word and explain it to the congregation. Do not leave out the phrase, “and the like”.

3. Habitually practicing the works of the flesh reveals a lost condition (v. 21b).

Here we have the frightening truth of the end of verse 21 and the most important point in this message. Juxtapose the lifestyle portrayed in this verse with the warfare of verse 17 and the putting to death of the flesh by the Christian in verse 24.

Bridging From Text To Sermon

Textual Idea: God describes the works of the flesh for us that we may learn to walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh.

Sermon Proposition: The works of the flesh are deadly and must be avoided, if we would live and honor God.

Interrogative: What does God tell us about the nature of these works?

Transition: God gives us three important facts concerning the works of the flesh:

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