



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – September 6, 2026

Heart to Heart...

Fleshliness always destroys spiritual things in the church and in people's lives. What do we mean when we use the term "fleshly?" It is nothing more than drawing off your own natural desires. It's very difficult to get fleshly people to recognize they are fleshly because they read and pray, thinking they are spiritual. People become so accustomed to doing things through their own thinking and nature, they simply don't realize how fleshly they are. They work off of their feelings, emotions and follow their own thought process. What's worse, they approach God's word in a fleshly way, using it for their own personal agendas. For instance, when someone is bitter or resentful, they will look to God's word to find ways to hold and justify those resentments. That's where fleshliness leads you. Several years ago at a congregation, there was an individual who was upset at one of the teachers. To keep from attending the adult class, they volunteered to teach a children's class. ***Fleshly!*** What do you think they were going to teach those children? How to love the Lord with all their heart and forgive? Fleshliness blinds people to the real spiritual things of God and their own spiritual condition.

Paul was disturbed by the Corinthian brethren, after spending 18 months with them personally teaching, finding out they were still fleshly (I Cor. 3:1-3). He showed them how fleshly they had become (I Cor. 2:14-3:9) by revealing some of their personal practices. The only way people will overcome their own fleshliness is a willingness to put aside their own thinking and desires and submitting to God with all their heart (Gal. 5:16-26).

Fleshly brethren are not overly concerned about the will of God. They say they are, but when change is demanded, they won't submit. They are more concerned with themselves and how they are treated by others. Fleshly brethren can't see the spiritual insights to the truth of God's word. Fleshly brethren don't realize the danger they put themselves in before God and all eternity.

How does one become spiritual minded? You must allow God to lead you in another direction by humbly accepting His ways. When you look to God and His word, you must allow Him to have complete instruction in your heart. When you are confronted with your fleshliness, don't recoil back (I Cor. 2:14) but embrace what God wants and expects, letting go of how you think and feel. That's how real spiritual change will come about in your life. Always ask, "Is this according to Christ or what I want?" In other words, who is moving your thought process and life? Think about it!!!

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