



"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 – December 28, 2025

To Know Christ...

"But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control; against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23) The Old Covenant (Law) was in place to keep evil under punishment and from taking over the nation of God's people. Spiritual laws were never ratified to destroy the lives of people. They actually set a boundary of protection for the faithful souls from the wicked actions of evil people. The righteous may suffer, but the wicked will meet punishment and judgment. The fruit of the Spirit is without limit, because there is no spiritual law to stop or even impede it.

However, self-centered passions and desires hinder and kill spiritual life. **"Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."** (v24-25) Crucify the flesh with its passionate desires! Are you ready to drive the long nails into our self-seeking desires? Get your hammer in hand; it will take focus to squarely strike these nails into what remains of the flesh within God's sanctified children. And it will take the helping Hands of God to aid us in lifting the cross off the ground and dropping it into the deeply dug post hole. And we sit watching the remnant of evil passions & desires struggle to breathe, gasping to linger, for we no longer give them expression within our lives. But we aim and seek to KILL the flesh, a slaughtering in fact. These desires are what carried us away from fellowship with God and into fellowship within Satan's kingdom of darkness. The tricks are over; they have been unclothed for the evil they are. The self-centered approach to life. The resentment toward God's ways. The worry and anxiety that is a companion of sin. The impatience to no longer wait for the Lord. The mindset of manipulating people to get the outcome we desire. The warping of the conscience to approve whatever wicked actions we desire. The loyalty that only comes through having fellowship with evil. The harsh, rude, and uncontrolled attitudes that offer no concern for the souls of others. **HERE & NOW, THEY ALL MUST DIE! Drive the NAILS!** Put their cross in the ground and spit on the desires we have

had in the past! Eagerly await their final gasping breath. No longer give them a place within our hearts. Then bury them deep, so that they never arise, and we remember the anguish they have caused. If we die with the hammer in hand, never crucifying the flesh, eternal condemnation remains or returns.

The decision is yours. The power to overcome the passions and desires of the flesh has been granted by the cleansing power of the blood of Christ and by the Spirit of God that was made to dwell within the heart of every saint. (Romans 8:12-14; Acts 2:38) All that will remain as we continue to crucify the flesh is the fruit of the Spirit. And its gains and heights are limitless to the children of God; there is no law against it. Who have you personally witnessed that showed you a Christ-centered love in your life? What effect did it have on you? It is time to arise from the ash heap that flesh caused, being crucified with Christ. Crucifying the old self begins in baptism with Christ. Now, let's walk by the Spirit in the love of our Lord, and be the example that moves the hearts of men toward the Savior we eagerly imitate.

- Carey Terry