

1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Peter 1:1

1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

Jude 1

1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James,

Paul called himself a slave of God. **Paul, James, Peter and Jude**, all called themselves bondservants of Christ. A bondservant was an obedient slave. We, as followers of Christ, are also called to be bondservants, slaves to Christ by the Spirit's leading.

Galatians 5:16-18

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

If we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The one is displaced by the other. If you are led by, obey the Spirit, you are not under the law. Does this mean that if you are not led by the Spirit that you are under the law and condemned by it? Yes, it does! If you walk according to the flesh you remain under the condemnation and judgement of God. God has made a way for you to escape this condemnation and judgement. The way is Christ. It is to be crucified with Christ, to account your old

nature, your sinful flesh dead, crucified in Christ. When you look at something a certain way or account it a certain way, you will act in accordance with the way you see it. If you account yourself dead, your sin nature crucified in Christ, then you must act accordingly. This means that you are prepared to live according to the Spirit's guidance and leading.

Romans 6:7

7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.

Galatians 2:20

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.

Galatians 5:24

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

Galatians 6:14

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.

Judgement continues to abide on those Christians who walk according to the flesh. Paul called them *enemies of the cross of Christ*.

They are enemies to the death of their sin nature. Enemies of obedience to the Spirit of God that works the death in them and produces the life holiness of God.

The Cross of Christ is obedience to the Spirit of God. Christ obeyed the Spirit. He prayed in Gethsemane, "**O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done,**" and He went to the cross.

The word *Gethsemane*, means oil press. The garden was an olive grove in which there was an oil press. When Christ prayed there He sweat drops of blood. He was squeezed with the agony of the decision to accept His cross. In the end He overcomes the temptation to resist it and is obedient to the Father's will. Obedience to the will of the Father, walking in the Spirit, was Christ's cross and it is also ours.

Philippians 3:18-19

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

These Christians walk as if they are enemies of the cross of Christ. It is their walk that tells you they are enemies of the cross. If they are unwilling to account their flesh

crucified in Christ and live accordingly, then they are walking according to the flesh. Paul says that their god is their fleshly desires, their bellies and that they have set their minds, hearts, affections, on earthly things.

2 Peter 2:9-10

9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment, 10 and especially those who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries,

They want their own way. They rebel against the will of God. They despise and hate His authority. *They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries*. They do not fulfill the righteous requirement of the law.

Dignitaries - Definition - A person who holds a high rank or office, as in the government or **church**.

Dignitaries - Greek word - (dóksa) - glorious ones, lit. Glories, praise, honor, glory

Romans 8:4

4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.