

Doctrine of the Flesh

1. The word “*flesh*” is used in a variety of ways in the *New Testament*.
2. The word “*flesh*” is used to speak of mankind in general.
 - *Matthew 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*
 - *Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*
3. The word “*flesh*” is used to speak of physical sexual unity between a man and his wife.
 - *Matthew 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? :6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.*
- 4.. The word “*flesh*” is used to speak of the natural limitations of the body.
 - *Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*
5. The word “*flesh*” is used to refer to all types of men that are promised salvation.
 - *Luke 3:6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*
6. The word “*flesh*” is used to refer to the physical body.
 - *Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.*
7. The word “*flesh*” is used metaphorically to refer to the body of Christ and thus to spiritual life
 - *John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. 52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.*

8. If a person is saved it will not be because of his own inclination or will.

- *John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

9. God honored the flesh of man through the incarnation.

- *John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

10. Flesh can only beget flesh, which means that like can only produce after its kind. No one has ever been saved because they were born physically into a particular sphere of existence.

- *John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

11. Only the Holy Spirit can regenerate the soul. The flesh of man, referring to all that he is by natural birth, has no part in the process.

12. John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

13. The Lord Jesus Christ has been invested with sovereignty over all men.

- *John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.*

14. In matchless grace God has been pleased to pour out the gift of the Holy Spirit upon all types of men in these last days.

- *Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:*

15. The flesh or the body is the seat of human emotions.

- *Acts 2:26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:*

16. Many spiritual promises are united with the flesh such as the promise of the Messiah.

- *Acts 2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.*

17. The humanity of Christ is affirmed according to the flesh.

- *Romans 1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;*
- *Romans 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.*
- *1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

18. To deny the incarnation is the spirit of anti-Christ.

- *1 John 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.*
- *2 John 7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*

19. The true “Jew” in the sight of God refers not to the flesh, but to those who have been circumcised spiritually in the heart.

- *Romans 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

18. The deeds of the flesh shall never justify a soul in the sight of God.

- *Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin*

20. The justification of Abraham was not based upon the works of the flesh he did in his body but upon faith.

- *Romans 4:1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found? 2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*

21. The flesh is weak and easily succumbs to sin. The believer is exhorted not allow the body to be used for sinful purposes.

- *Romans 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.*
 - *Romans 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.*
 - *Romans 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*
22. There is nothing good in the flesh that will please God or be acceptable to Him. Moreover the flesh is weak and beyond that it is wicked.
- *Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*
23. The heart of the professing Christian can take hope that there is no condemnation or judgment provided the life is not characterized by walking after the flesh.
- *Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
24. In the person of Jesus Christ, God the Father has condemned the works of the law in the flesh.
- *Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:*
25. By walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh the believer can fulfill the righteousness of the law.
- *Romans 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*
26. It is possible to determine if one is walking after the flesh or after the Spirit. An honest evaluation of the heart reveals what is longed for, thought about and given to. Those who are after the flesh give their thoughts constantly to fleshly matters such as sensual pleasure, fornication, adultery, covetousness, hatred, envy, jealousy and bitterness.
- *Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*
25. No one who gives themselves to the flesh can please God in word, thought or deed.
- *Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*

27. Positionally by means of the new birth the believer is not in the sphere of the flesh but is in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in the life. For many, that is a big “if” for there is much inward corruption that is not being mortified.
- *Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*
28. No professing Christian owes the flesh any debt. There is no obligation to the flesh. In fact, if the flesh is honored in any ways the soul will die the death of the damned which means separation from God in time and in eternity.
- *Romans 8:12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.*
 - *Romans 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*
29. So much did Paul love his countrymen and desire their salvation he wished he could be cut off from Christ if it would lead to their salvation.
- *Romans 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:*
 - *Romans 11:14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.*
30. The Christian is plainly commanded not to make any provision for the fleshly impulses to fulfill it desires.
- *Romans 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.*
31. The community of believers does not include many of the wealthy or the wise after the flesh so that individuals may not boast of their rank or privileges and feel deserving of salvation.
- *1 Corinthians 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*
 - *1 Corinthians 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.*
32. The apostles had power to deliver a person over to Satan in order that the sin unto death might be administered.
- *1 Corinthians 5:5 To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

33. Strong motives are needed if a soul is to cease from sinning. The apostle Paul exhorts the believers to holiness of life by reminding them that acts of fornication unite body and soul together as one. Such a union violates the spiritual union that is meant to exist between Christ and His bride the church.
- *1 Corinthians 6:16 What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*
34. Though marriage is honorable, it brings trouble to the flesh or natural life.
- *1 Corinthians 7:28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.*
35. It is a divine law of the universe that fallen flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Only righteousness can produce righteousness which is why individuals need to be born again of the Spirit of God.
- *1 Corinthians 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*
36. One of the objectives of the Christian life is to live in such a way that the life of Christ is reproduced in mortal flesh.
- *2 Corinthians 4:11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*
37. The believer is to learn to perfect holiness in the fear of God.
- *2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*
38. In the act of spiritual warfare the flesh cannot be engaged in, nor defeated by the flesh. Flesh cannot defeat its own but rather unites in fortification. One reason for constant defeat in the Christian experience is that flesh tries to fight flesh.
- *2 Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*
39. In order to induce humility and a total reliance upon divine grace, God will afflict the body of flesh.

- *2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

40. Spiritual counsel does not always come from flesh and blood but from the Holy Spirit and the Father of all wisdom.

- *Galatians 1:16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:*

41. In the plainest of language the *Bible* reveals that a person is only justified or declared righteous in the sight of God by the faith of Jesus Christ. Union with Christ results in the imputation of the righteousness of Christ to the soul and His faith as well, so that it can be declared, “*by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*”

- *Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

42. A person is justified by the faith of Jesus Christ and the Christian life is lived by the faith of the Son of God.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

43. The Christian is tempted to begin the life of faith in the Spirit and then revert to fleshly religion characterized by legalism.

- *Galatians 3:3 Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

44. The power of the gospel does not lie in natural gifts such as good looks or a nice speaking voice but in the power of God.

- *Galatians 4:13 Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. 14 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.*

43. The freedom that is found in the Christian life is designed not to sin but to serve.

- *Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*

45. For those who struggle with besetting sins there is a promise from God. By walking in the Spirit the lusts of the flesh will find no occasion to be fulfilled.

- *Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*
46. There is a natural internal warfare of the soul. The Spirit is at war with the flesh. It is a fight to the finish.
- *Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*
 - *Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*
47. The term flesh refers to all that is vile in the soul. The flesh expresses itself in a variety of ways.
- *Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,*
48. First positionally and then experientially the Christian must crucify the flesh. If this mortification of the flesh does not take place there will be no life everlasting. It is as simple and frightening as that.
- *Galatians 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*
 - *Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*
 - *1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*
49. Those who satisfy the flesh without protest or remorse are by nature proving themselves to be the children of wrath.
- *Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*
36. From a natural state of wrath and death the grace of God comes to a soul to make it alive.
- *Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.*