

7SO TO KEEP ME FROM BECOMING CONCEITED BECAUSE
OF THE SURPASSING GREATNESS OF THE REVELATIONS, A THORN
WAS GIVEN ME IN THE FLESH, A MESSENGER OF SATAN TO HARASS
ME, TO KEEP ME FROM BECOMING CONCEITED. *THREE TIMES
I PLEADED WITH THE LORD ABOUT THIS, THAT IT SHOULD LEAVE
ME. *BUT HE SAID TO ME, "MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU,
FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS." THEREFORE
I WILL BOAST ALL THE MORE GLADLY OF MY WEAKNESSES,
SO THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME. INFOR
THE SAKE OF CHRIST, THEN, I AM CONTENT WITH WEAKNESSES,
INSULTS, HARDSHIPS, PERSECUTIONS, AND CALAMITIES.
FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG. —2 COR. 12:7-10

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I.A CONCEPT FOR US TO GRASP

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FOR I KNOW THAT NOTHING GOOD DWELLS IN ME, THAT IS, IN MY FLESH. FOR I HAVE THE DESIRE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT, BUT NOT THE ABILITY TO CARRY IT OUT.—ROMANS 7:18

FOR THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH ARE AGAINST THE SPIRIT, AND THE DESIRES OF THE SPIRIT ARE AGAINST THE FLESH,

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FOR THESE ARE OPPOSED TO EACH OTHER,

TO KEEP YOU FROM DOING THE THINGS YOU WANT TO DO.

—GALATIANS 5:17

'FOR' OR 'BECAUSE OF THE FLESH.'

FLESH SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD HERE NOT IN A PHYSICAL SENSE,

BUT IN A MORAL SENSE AS A REFERENCE TO

PAUL'S UNREDEEMED HUMANNESS (CF. ROM. 6:19; 7:5, 18, 25; 8:4-9).

THE LORD ALLOWED PAUL'S INTENSE SUFFERING

TO IMPALE HIS OTHERWISE PROUD FLESH;

TO HUMBLE THE ONE WHO HAD SO MANY REVELATIONS."

"THE PHRASE, 'IN THE FLESH,' COULD ALSO BE RENDERED

-IOHN MACARTHUR COMMENTARY

19FOR I DO NOT UNDERSTAND MY OWN ACTIONS.
FOR I DO NOT DO WHAT I WANT, BUT I DO THE
VERY THING I HATE... 19FOR I DO NOT DO THE GOOD
I WANT, BUT THE EVIL I DO NOT WANT IS WHAT
I KEEP ON DOING. 20NOW IF I DO WHAT I DO NOT WANT,
IT IS NO LONGER I WHO DO IT,
BUT SIN THAT DWELLS WITHIN ME.

—ROMANS 7:15, 19-20

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2. A CONFLICT FOR US TO DISCUSS

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"... IT IS OUR BASE, PRIMAL, ANIMALISTIC DRIVES FOR SELF-GRATIFICATION, ESPECIALLY PERTAINING TO SENSUALITY (AS IN SEX AND FOOD) BUT ALSO TO PLEASURE IN GENERAL, AS WELL AS OUR INSTINCTS FOR SURVIVAL, DOMINATION, AND THE NEED FOR CONTROL. DESIRES THAT ARE IN ALL OF US. IN SPITE OF THE HUMANISTIC ATMOSPHERE ALL AROUND CONSTANTLY TELLING US WE'RE GOOD, WE ALL KNOW WE HAVE THESE DESIRES WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH.

BECAUSE THEY DON'T MATCH THE CULTURAL MESSAGING
WE HEAR ALL THE TIME, WE OFTEN FEEL TERRIFIED
THE TRUTH WILL COME OUT OR WE FEEL SHAME
OVER OUR INNER LIVES OR EVEN A KIND OF SELF-HATE.
BUT THE NEW TESTAMENT IS INCREDIBLY OPEN ABOUT THE
DARK UNDERBELLY OF THE HUMAN HEART,
AND WE'RE INVITED TO EXPLORE IT
UNDER THE LOVING GAZE OF GOD'S COMPASSION."

-JOHN MARK COMER

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ATTITUDES

I CORINTHIANS 3:1-4

• APPETITES
GALATIANS 5:19-20

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"GOD HIMSELF CREATED US AS SEXUAL BEINGS AND COMMANDED US TO "INCREASE IN NUMBER" [MEANING A COMMAND TO HAVE INTIMATE PHYSICAL RELATIONS]... BUT WHEN SEX BECOMES A PSEUDOGOD THAT WE LOOK TO FOR OUR IDENTITY, FOR BELONGING IN A COMMUNITY, OR FOR LIFE SATISFACTION, WHEN IT BECOMES A SOTERIOLOGY (A DOCTRINE OF SALVATION) AS IT IS FOR MANY IN THE WEST, THAT'S A DISORDERED LOVE. AND IT'S NOT JUST THAT IT'S WRONG IN THE MORAL SENSE: IT'S THAT IT CAN'T POSSIBLY SATISFY THE DEEPER ACHE OF THE SOUL FOR LOVE, INTIMACY, ACCEPTANCE AND GENERATIVITY, AFTER ALL, THE BODY JUST WANTS A CLIMAX OF SEXUAL EXCITEMENT, BUT THE SOUL WANTS MORE—COMMUNION AND CONTRIBUTION."

—JOHN MARK COMER

AMBITIONS

JAMES 4:1-3

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"HAPPINESS HAS BECOME ALL ABOUT FEELING GOOD, NOT BEING GOOD. THE GOOD LIFE HAS BECOME ABOUT GETTING WHAT WE WANT, NOT BECOMING THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TRULY GOOD THINGS... THE SELF—NOT GOD OR SCRIPTURE—IS THE NEW LOCUS OF AUTHORITY IN WESTERN CULTURE."—JOHN MARK COMER

-.017.tiff -.018.tiff

3. A CONCESSION WE MUST MAKE 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10 COULD NOT DO. BY SENDING HIS OWN SON IN THE LIKENESS
OF SINFUL FLESH AND FOR SIN, HE CONDEMNED SIN
IN THE FLESH, 4IN ORDER THAT THE RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENT OF
THE LAW MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US, WHO WALK NOT ACCORDING
TO THE FLESH BUT ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT. FOR THOSE
WHO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH SET THEIR MINDS
ON THE THINGS OF THE FLESH, BUT THOSE WHO LIVE
ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT SET THEIR MINDS ON THE THINGS
OF THE SPIRIT, FOR TO SET THE MIND ON THE FLESH IS DEATH,
BUT TO SET THE MIND ON THE SPIRIT IS LIFE AND PEACE.—ROM. 8:3-6

FOR GOD HAS DONE WHAT THE LAW, WEAKENED BY THE FLESH,

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1250 THEN, BROTHERS, WE ARE DEBTORS, NOT TO THE FLESH,
TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE FLESH. 12FOR IF YOU LIVE ACCORDING
TO THE FLESH YOU WILL DIE.

BUT IF BY THE SPIRIT YOU PUT TO DEATH THE DEEDS OF THE BODY,
YOU WILL LIVE. "FOR ALL WHO ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD
ARE SONS OF GOD.

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INFOR YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF SLAVERY TO FALL BACK INTO FEAR, BUT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION AS SONS, BY WHOM WE CRY, "ABBA! FATHER!" —ROMANS 8:12-15

BUT I SAY, WALK BY THE SPIRIT,

AND YOU WILL NOT GRATIFY THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH.

—GALATIANS 5:16

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FOR IF WE HAVE BEEN UNITED WITH HIM IN A DEATH LIKE HIS, WE SHALL CERTAINLY BE UNITED WITH HIM IN A RESURRECTION LIKE HIS.

"WE KNOW THAT OUR OLD SELF WAS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM IN ORDER THAT THE BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE BROUGHT TO NOTHING, SO THAT WE WOULD NO LONGER BE ENSLAYED TO SIN... "SO YOU ALSO MUST CONSIDER YOURSELVES DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO GOD IN CHRIST JESUS.

"JLET NOT SIN THEREFORE REIGN IN YOUR MORTAL BODY, TO MAKE YOU OBEY ITS PASSIONS. "DO NOT PRESENT YOUR MEMBERS TO SIN AS INSTRUMENTS FOR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, BUT PRESENT YOURSELVES TO GOD AS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FROM DEATH TO LIFE, AND YOUR MEMBERS TO GOD AS INSTRUMENTS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

"FOR SIN WILL HAVE NO DOMINION OVER YOU, SINCE YOU ARE NOT UNDER LAW BUT UNDER GRACE. —ROMANS 6:5-6, 11-14

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