

Can a Christian be Carnal?

Romans 8:1-11

- I. The Christian is free to live a holy life and not be ruled by sin (Rom. 6:14; 1 Pet. 1:15-16).**

- II. The Christian is to walk by the Spirit and not fulfill the desires of the flesh (Gal. 5:16).**

- III. Christians need time to grow and become spiritually strong in the fight against sin (Heb. 5:13; 1 Cor. 3:3; Jn. 19:38-39).**

- IV. Christians can live and act like unbelievers (Rom. 6:12-13; 1 Cor. 3:1-4).**

- V. Christians should not live and act like unbelievers (Rom. 8:12; Gal. 5:16-17).**

VI. Christians can continue in sinful behavior, but not without consequences (2 Sam. 11:27; 12:15; 1 Cor. 3:1-4; 11:30).

VII. When a Christian sins he does not forfeit his justification in Christ (Rom. 8:1; 1 Jn. 1:8; 3:2).

VIII. Habitual sinful conduct is an indication of one of two possibilities.

A. The person is unregenerate (1 Jn. 3:6-10; 5:18).

B. The person is a Christian in a state of spiritual regression (2 Pet. 1:8, 9; Heb. 3:8).

IX. Christians who continue in sin are to be confronted in love (Matt. 18:15; Gal. 6:1).

X. Christians who continue in sin will be disciplined by the Lord (Heb. 12:7).

XI. The flesh will always be a part of the believer's life in that there will always be worldly, selfish patterns of thinking, feeling, and believing (1 Jn. 2:15-17; Gal. 5:16-17).

XII. What is to be our response to the possibility that a Christian can live according to the flesh?

A. Don't go there (Rom. 8:13; 13:14; Gal. 5:13; 6:8; 1 Pet. 5:8).

B. Seek to bring them to repentance (1 Jn. 5:16; Jas. 5:20; Gal. 6:1).

C. Don't be quick to judge (Matt. 7:1-5).

D. Let us not allow this to characterize our "church culture."

E. Don't be seduced by perfectionism or license.

Conclusion

Let us go on to maturity!