***Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are:adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.***

In my house, I have this dimmer switch for the lights over the fireplace. I can turn this little knob clockwise and the lights get brighter, turn it counterclockwise and the lights get dimmer. More light, less light. Less light, more darkness.

The Spirit and the flesh are not on a dimmer switch in our souls. When one is on, the other is off. Never make the mistake of thinking that time in the flesh is just a time of dimmer Spirit. Spirit and flesh are contrary to one another, they war against each other, God will not coexist with sin. There is no dimmer switch. There is an on and an off. Light and dark, dark and light. How quickly the darkness overcomes the light depends on the maintenance of our connection to God through Jesus Christ. Loose connection, flickering Spirit, unpredictable dark.

Sin is driven by desire – sin is Self looking outward. The first part of our scripture, verse 19 says *Now the works of the flesh are evident.* The word evident there means shining brightly. When we are working from a place of Self, working to fulfill the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, as 1 John 2:16 says, our darkness is shining for all to see!

What is the evidence? Verses 19-21 give us a partial list *adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like.* Immorality. Some say – I’ve never once been involved with sorcery, never been involved with adultery. Jesus would beg to differ on that. Matthew 5:27-28 *“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.* We’ve all heard the old saying – It’s the thought that counts. Jesus agrees. That TV show that celebrates adultery, fornication, lewdness, and unclean behavior. That book that celebrates lying and stealing. That video that makes a joke of mistreatment of others. That person that undermines and gossips. That internet site twisting scripture and questioning faith. Jesus agrees – it’s the thought that counts. Matthew 15:19 *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.*  James 1:13-15 agrees too - *Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.* When flesh controls, we know. Prayer seems flat. The desire to be with other believers flees. Our heart grows dark. Love grows cold. Selfish desires take over. Everyone is to blame, I’m innocent. I need, I want, I think. When the flesh controls, darkness prevails. I deserve… yes, correct! We certainly do deserve - Romans 6:23 says *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* The wages we deserve is death. Eternal life only comes when we walk in the Spirit through Faith in the gracious gift of Jesus Christ.

Finishing verse 21 *of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.* Where our treasure is – what we place value on in life, there our thoughts, focus, and hearts will be also. When we practice a self-focus, we need not wonder why the darkness prevails and Spirit eludes. Romans 8:5 – *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, the things of the Spirit.* It really doesn’t get any clearer that this. What we practice, we consider important. Walking in the Spirit requires that we set our minds on the things of the Spirit, even when we don’t get our way, even when we don’t like it… if God called us to it, we serve at His pleasure. If He didn’t, then we are in rebellion to His true call. Those who practice flesh will NOT inherit the kingdom of God. Colossians 3:5 *Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.* Put to death your members – meaning the parts of us that focus on the things of the flesh. This is the work required of, no commanded of us all!

This week, let’s consider the setting of our switch. There is no dimmer switch, so we’re not like Donnie and Marie used to sing – Little bit country, little bit rock and roll. We’re not a little bit flesh and a little bit Spirit. Saturday flesh, Sunday morning Spirit. Spirit with my family and flesh on the interstate. No. Off or On. Where is our mind set? What are we practicing? What are we putting to death? Narrow way leading to Spirit and Life? Or broad way, with mileposts marked adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries. One way shines as evidence of pride into the world, the other shines a light towards an eternal address in Heaven. Our earthly choices will determine our eternal destination. Flesh or Spirit… what are our minds set upon?