

I have a keen sense of the obvious! Things that are so plain, so clear, so...so...you know..."Well ,duh, No KIDDING" obvious! It's time for another one. Check out Galatians 5:19-26 and compare the two lists side by side

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious...

sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery (lust)
idolatry and witchcraft (fear)
hatred, discord, jealousy (conflict)
fits of rage (impatience)
selfish ambition (use others)
dissensions; factions (rejection)
envy (to get)
drunkenness, orgies, and the like. (loss of control)
I warn you, as I did before, that those who live *like this* will not inherit the kingdom of God. (lawlessness)

But the fruit of the Spirit is...

love
joy
peace
patience
kindness (serve others)
faithfulness (loyalty)
goodness (to give)
gentleness and self-control.
Against such things there is no law.

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.
Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.
Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

There is nothing so plain, so obvious, so clear as the distinct difference between what the flesh produces and what the Spirit produces. The old, corrupt, sinful nature we were born with is self-centered, self-seeking, self-exalting, self-focused, self-pitying, self-promoting and self-pleasing. It is all about wanting, getting, keeping, using, and leaving. On the other hand, the Spirit produces a totally new kind of self that is all about giving, serving, waiting, staying and enduring.

Lust versus love... getting versus giving... stealing versus serving...
Fear versus joy... manipulation versus submission... superstition versus truth
You can complete the rest of the list for yourself.

A good friend of mine frequently reminds me that "the human mind is most creative when seeking to justify itself." We can always come up with good reasons for doing what we want to do, even when we know it's wrong. Our greatest problem source is not our circumstance, our situation, our stage of life or even Satan. Our greatest cause of problems comes from within, even as Jesus warned us. Mark 7:20-23

For further study: Mark 7:20-23

"Lord, thank You for Your Spirit who works in my spirit to bring me life, growth, and change. I bless You that You have made me a new creation by the Spirit's work of regeneration. I am grateful that the work You began then continues on in me by Your Spirit to make me more and more like Your Son. Cleanse me from within. Change my heart, O God. I long to be like You in heart, in attitude, in thought, in desire, and in motive as well as in word, deed, response, and habit. You are Lord of all. Be Lord over every realm of my heart and life today, King Jesus. In Thy saving and sanctifying name I pray, Amen."

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you continually.

Living with leaving in view.... Jn 9:4 *Ron & Val*

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable, changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows, spending our time on eternity, owning nothing yet possessing everything that matters and lasts. We are Pilgrims in Paradox. Welcome to THE JOURNEY.