

GALATIANS 5:24, And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

According to Strong's Concordance the word "flesh" as it is used here and most other places in the New Testament refers not to our physical body but to; "mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God. " With this in mind, we must understand that our carnal nature and the fruit it brings forth is not to be counseled, made to feel accepted, compromised with or ignored. No! God declares that in our flesh "nothing good dwells" (ROMANS 7:18). Our carnal nature is set in opposition to God and that the only remedy to its influence in our life is to daily take up our cross and nail our carnal desires and passion to it (LUKE 9:23, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:31). This is not a pretty picture but one that is revealed in both the teaching of Jesus and the apostle Paul. All that is of "us" has to die daily and all that is of God must be embraced and celebrated if we are to be a people that can steward His presence with honor and integrity.

I believe the Lord would have us focus in this season upon an honest assessment of our lives The Holy Spirit is calling us to dig into His word and allow the image and purpose for our lives revealed there to act as our mirror. It is only as we yield our lives to the word of God and obey it that we can put the flesh to death. Prayer and counsel can never take the place of crucifying the flesh. There is only one way - the way of the cross. May the joy of the Lord be your portion as you take up your cross and follow Him. Glory awaits!