First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia USA
Spiritual Warfare and Deliverance
Prayer Study #553X

# THE FLESH REVISITED, THE HARLOT CHURCH, AND APOSTACY

## THE FLESH

We will soon be moving on to the deliverance portion of this class, i.e. how to set up for and lead someone through deliverance. But I want to deal with two other issues first, the Flesh and the Harlot Church. Earlier in this course we dealt with Spirit, Soul, and Body (p. 45) and then more specifically the Flesh Nature (p. 119). In this lesson I want to go deeper in looking at the Flesh because through the years I have found that the majority of people who come for prayer have a greater need of crucifying their flesh than they have need of deliverance from demons. Although, let me quickly add that, if you do not deal with the flesh nature, you will most likely end up with demons moving in! The enemy is always looking for any entry point, and the sins of the flesh can be those entry points!

Anna Rountree has intrigued me with her comments about the flesh in footnotes in her book *Heaven Awaits the Bride*, an author and book introduced to me by Femeka Grant. She also has a lot to say about the Church in our day, and in the second part of this lesson we will be looking at some of her comments concerning that too. But first, let's look at her comments about the flesh and the Bible's own comments concerning the flesh.

Rountree says, “The flesh is a storehouse of memories, attitudes, and emotions stemming from the resentment, injustices, and pain we have experienced in the past. The reason these are still with us is because the flesh cannot forgive or love, anymore than the devil can forgive or love. Demons can tap this reservoir of hatred within us at a moment’s notice if God or the believer allows it. The flesh cannot love anyone but itself, for it hates God, the source of love (Romans 8:6-7-*For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace, because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.* 1st John 4:7-8-*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*) It will always be in bondage to the law of sin and death (Romans 7:18-*For I know that in me [that is, in my flesh] nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.* Romans 8:23-24-*But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin, which is in my members. Oh wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death*?). The flesh cannot be redeemed. It will remain bound by sin for the duration of one’s earthly life, as it cannot repent (Hebrews 12:17-*For you know that afterward, when he* [Esau] *wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.*) Victory over the power of the flesh was won by Christ on the cross when the old, corporate heart (the power source of

the flesh) of the human race died with Him there (Ezekiel 36:26-*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.* Romans 6:6-…*knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.* 2nd Corinthians 5:21-*For he made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* Colossians 3:3-*For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God*.) When He rose from the dead and ascended to the Father, a new inner person of heart and spirit in the likeness of Jesus' resurrected heart and spirit became available to set every believer free from the dominion of flesh *(*Ephesians 4:22-24-…*that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on in the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.* Colossians 3:9-10-*Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.* 1st Peter 3:3-4-*Do not let your adornment be merely outward-arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel-rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.* Ezekiel 36:26-27-*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statues, and you*

*will keep My judgments and do them.* Romans 8:2-*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.* 1st Corinthians 6:17-*But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.*) The love of Christ now has the power to control us rather than the flesh *(*2nd Corinthians 5:14-*For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that is One died for all, then all died.* Philippians 3:20-21-*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*) We must be brought to hate our flesh and every expression of it (Jude 22-23-*And on some have compassion, making a distinction, but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.* John 12:25-***He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.)*** We are to put no confidence in ourselves but in Him who raises the dead *(*2nd Corinthians 1:9-*Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead*.) God gradually reveals to us the depth of the hideousness of our flesh (Galatians 5:19-21-*Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in times past, that those who practice such things 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.* Colossians 3:8-10-*But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him*.) He reveals it so that we may vehemently oppose it in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:13-*For 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.* Romans 13:14-*But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.* Galatians 5:17-*For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.* Galatians 5:24-*And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*) 1 (Colossians 3:3-*For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.* Philippians 4:6-7-*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*) As we live on Christ's level and share all things with Him in loving submission to His needs, His presence in us will meet our needs and the needs of others (Psalm 16:11-*You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.* Philippians 4:19-*And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*) In times

of temptation, we are to proclaim to the devil and his demons that Jesus Christ is our victory over them, for we died with Him on Calvary and now share His risen life (Galatians 2:20-*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* Colossians 3:3-*For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*) The disciple who overcomes the world, the flesh, and the devil as the Lord Jesus overcame them seeks only the Living God, in comparison with whom all things are rubbish. (Revelation 3:21-***To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.*** Colossians 3:1-*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, not on things on the earth.* Philippians 3:8-*Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.*)"

**Other Scriptures Dealing with the Flesh:**

1st John 15:17: *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world-the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

Romans 8:1: *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

Romans 8:3-4: *For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: he condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.*

Joel 2:28: *And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men dream dreams, your young men see visions.*

Romans 6:11: *Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* KJV

Romans 6:6-11: *Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer at sin's every beck and call! What we believe is this: If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, we also get included in his life-saving resurrection. We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did.*

I would like to add to Rountree's keen insight. We must be in proper alignment with the Spirit taking the lead position, the Soul coming next, and our Body with its flesh nature dominated by both Spirit and Soul. Often the scriptures are referring to both Spirit and Soul when they use the term *Heart.* When the body is in control, what feels good and appeals to the five senses is feeds the flesh nature. People who are operating with the Body calling the shots are at best carnal Christians. The Soul (the Mind, Will, and Emotions), when it takes control in the Christian, produces a religious spirit. When the Spirit is in control, as it should always be, we realize the truth of 1st John 1:7: *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.* It is extremely important that we are in proper alignment, if we are going deep in the Lord to places He is calling us to, in the Spirit. Unfortunately, we battle the flesh all our lives, but one day we will be set free from the flesh nature and gain glorified body.

## THE HARLOT CHURCH

Anna Rountree also has a lot to say about the false church: "The man-controlled organization that calls herself 'the church' is centered upon the things of this world and seems oblivious to any impending judgment of God against her. This also was the case with the people in the days of Noah and in the city of Sodom (Luke 17:26-30-***And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man. They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was in the days of Lot. They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built, but on the day Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and***

***brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed***.) The church will not understand what God is doing.

The false church is called 'Babylon the Great' (Revelation 17:5-*And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH*) because she is the final form of the satanically inspired, religious system that began in the days of the tyrant Nimrod to exalt herself through witchcraft and idolatry. The first Babylonian church used bricks instead of stones to build her city, even as today's Babylonian church builds herself up with man-made materials instead of relying upon Jesus Christ to build her with living stones (Genesis 11:1-4: *Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar.* Matthew 16:18-***And I say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*** 1st Peter 2:5-…*you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*.) The idolatrous church in the last days us pictured as a harlot queen. She is ruled by demon powers. She is foretold in Isaiah 47:1-*Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate.*

Isaiah 47:7-9-*And you said, "I shall be a lady forever." So that you did not take these things to heart, nor remember the latter end of them. Therefore hear this now, you who are given to pleasures, who dwell securely. Who say in your heart, "I am, and there is no one else besides me; I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children. But these two things shall come to you in a moment, in one day: the loss of children and widowhood. They shall come upon you in fullness because of the multitude of your sorceries, for the great abundance of your enchantments.*) The Esau church cares more about her comfort, gratification, and convenience than for her spiritual birthright (Genesis 25:29-34-*Now Jacob cooked a stew and Esau came in from the field, and he was very weary. And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom. But Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright as of this day." And Esau said, "Look, I am about to die, so what is this birthright to me?" Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. And Jacob gave Esau bread and stew of lentils; then he ate and drank, arose, and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.*) She has no heart for the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:7-8-*Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*) The idolatries of the outward appearance of success and recognition by man have replaced the desire for the hidden life in Christ (Matthew 6:1-***Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no***

***reward from your Father in heaven.*** Colossians 3:3-*For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God*. Revelation 17:4-*The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication.* Revelation 18:7-*In the measure that she glorified herself and lived* luxuriously, *in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, "I sit as queen and am no widow and will not see sorrow.*")

Already the separation of the servants of Christ from the idolatrous, unbelieving church has begun. The holy people of God are commanded: 'Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive her plagues…for…in one day she will be burned up with fire (Revelation 18:4-*And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins and lest you receive of her plagues.* Revelation 18:8-*Therefore her plagues will come in one day-death and mourning and famine. And she will be utterly burned with fire, for strong is the Lord God who judges her*.)

God does not hold the pagan world primarily responsible for the deception that abounds. He holds the church accountable, for salvation in Christ is through His body, the church (Ephesians 1:22-*And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the church.* Ephesians 3:10-…*to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made know by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places…* 1st Peter 4:17-*For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be*

*the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?* Hebrews 10:30-31-*For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine. I will repay," say the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*)

The righteous church will suffer great persecution in the last days by the corrupt church being in league with the world system of Satan (Revelation 17:3-*So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.* Revelation 17:6-*And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. And when I saw her, I marveled with great amazement.*)

The redeemed and the angelic host will declare with one mighty voice in heaven: "Hallelujah! He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and He has avenged the blood of His bondservants on her (Revelation 19:1-2-*After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!* ) 'All the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff, and the day that is coming will set them ablaze. But for you who fear My name, the son of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings (Matthew 4:1-3-*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."* Isaiah 60:1-3-*Arise, shine. For your light has*

*come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and deep darkness the people. But the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles will come to your light, and the kings to the brightness of your rising.* Isaiah 60:19-*The sun shall no longer be your light by day nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you. But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light and your God your glory.*) God's children who overcome His enemies and learn to live above in Christ are promised 'hidden manna' that will nourish them, food from heaven about which the world does not know (John 4:32-*But He said to them,* ***"I have food to eat of which you do not know."*** Revelation 2:17-***He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.*** ) They will "walk the street of gold" in that celestial Jerusalem while still alive on earth, meaning that their inner person will live in Christ's realm (John 14:3-***And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*** John 17:24-***Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*** 1st John 1:3-…*that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.* Hebrews 12:22-24-*But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city*

*of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.*)"

In summary, it is my position that Babylon represents the world system of commerce, filled with greet, the love of money, control, unethical and immoral business practices, etc. Mystery Babylon (Revelation 17:5), Mother of Harlots and of Abominations of the Earth (Revelation 17:5), and the Great Whore of Babylon (Revelation 19:2) are names for the apostate religious system in league with the Babylonian world system.

**Other Scriptures Dealing with Babylon or the Harlot Church:**

Revelation 14:8: *And another angel followed saying, "Babylon has fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.*

(For more information on Babylon, read Revelation 16, 17, and 18.)

## APOSTACY

### Jude's Warning of Apostasy

Jude wrote that he "found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3) because "certain people have crept

in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ" (Jude 1:4). If someone denies that Jesus Christ is Lord, it is a departure from "the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" and is considered to be an apostasy.

**Paul's Warning of Apostasy**

Paul saw it happening in his day and in one of his last letters he said "the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared" (1 Tim 4:1-2) and certainly any teaching from demonic forces must be an apostasy from what the true faith is which Paul said would happen "in later times." Some would teach a prohibition on marriage while others a prohibition on certain foods (1 Tim 4:3) both of which is contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ, thus showing that these who teach such things are apostates.

(Quoted from Jack Wellman)

Finis Dake gives us 20 stages of World Apostasy from Romans 1:

1. They did not glorify God (v. 21)
2. Became unthankful (v. 21)
3. Vain in imaginations (v. 21)
4. Became dark in heart (v. 21)
5. Professed to be wise (v. 22)

6. Became fools (v. 22)
7. Changed God's glory (v. 23)
8. Dishonored their bodies (v. 24)
9. Changed the truth to a lie (v. 25)
10. Worshiped creation as God (v.25)
11. Served creatures, not God (v. 25)
12. Submitted to vile passions (v. 26)
13. Women became lesbians (v. 26)
14. Men went into sodomy (v. 27)
15. Rejected knowledge of God (v. 28)
16. Became reprobate in mind (v. 28)
17. Fully perverted sexually (v. 28)
18. Filled with iniquities (v. 29-31)
19. Despised coming judgment (v. 32)
20. Glorified in wickedness (v. 32)

Dake gives three Acts of Apostasy (Isaiah 1:4):

1. Forsaken-apostasy in disposition
2. Provoked-apostasy in words
3. Gone away backward-apostasy in actions

   Dake says that, when people come to stage 3, this is a point where there is no return, for "one has willingly thrown all faith overboard and has done away with the only sacrifice that could renew to repentance (Hebrews 4:6-9; 10:26-29). Up to this point there is always forgiveness to the backslider (Matthew 12:31, 1st John 1:9, and 1st John 2:1-2).