

(Deuteronomy 22:9-11) You shall not sow your vineyard with different kinds of seeds, lest the fruit of your seed which you have sown and the fruit of your vineyard be defiled. You shall not plow with an ox and an ass together. You shall not wear a garment of different kinds, of wool and linen together. (MKJV)

Why couldn't they interplant like the gardening books recommend and why couldn't they wear wool/cotton/polyester blends like we do?

Symbolism - stands for something else. Symbols in the Bible are given to make a shallow example of a deep truth.

People of Israel were to be a set apart people, a holy people, a sanctified people, a people of God for the rest of the world to look on with curiosity and envy - they were to draw outsiders to God.

They didn't do a very good job, instead of remembering the purpose of their special calling they spent their time either turning into the rest of the world around them or making new and improved and amplified rules to make themselves seem even more different and special, at least in their own eyes.

So how does those verses about not mixing unlike things apply to us? Shall we burn our clothes and go back to pure polyester leisure suits.

The application for us is that we too are not to mix two unlike things. We have a choice: either -or, either-or. the dash is not an option for us. We have a choice to make on how we're to live.

Matthew loved to remind us of that. Look at how many places in his gospel he uses that example: wise or foolish bridesmaids; house on sand or solid rock; repentant thief on cross or unrepentant thief on cross; sheep or goats; in the wedding or out of it. You can be on whatever side you choose, but you can't have it both ways.

Jesus also said it: he who is not against us is for us.

Some more choices from Paul: you can either go to heaven or you can go to hell.  
you can either live and walk in the spirit or you can live and walk in the flesh.  
you can either go to heaven with rewards or you can go to heaven without.

Those six options give us 4 possible ways to live:

unsaved, walking  
in the flesh

unsaved, trying  
to walk in the  
spirit

saved walking in  
the spirit

saved, walking in  
the flesh

That's it. That's your choices. We'll look at each briefly.

### UNSAVED, WALKING IN THE FLESH

- you don't care, you'll do what you want, when you want, with whomever you want, and neither God nor anybody else will ever tell you any different. And you know something, those people usually aren't happy.

### UNSAVED, TRYING TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT

- you try to be a good person and earn your way to some type of heaven by some other religion besides Christianity or you just try to be a good person because you think that's how people ought to be.

We all know people in those two categories, but probably most of us fall into the last two, so that's where we'll spend the rest of our time.

We'll assume that you've had a conversion experience, that you've been born again, that you've been saved, that you're washed in the blood, whatever you want to call it. We don't have trouble understanding that. Where we get in trouble is with the question that we never seem to remember to ask ourselves or the newly saved person.

### NOW WHAT?

You're saved and going to heaven. Wonderful, but now what. You've got 20,30,40,50,60,70,80 years left here on earth, so what comes next?

This is where we have failed. We have failed it in ourselves and more importantly we have failed it with our few converts. We get people to come to church, we get them to go to the altar, we throw a little water on them and write their name in the roll book, and then we do absolutely nothing except to wonder where they went when they quit coming.

We have left people to flounder where we ourselves are so often floundering, trying to live a saved life in the flesh and it don't work. Those are the type of people who get to heaven, but get so only as one passing through the fire, in other words, just barely and with nothing to show for it. Folks say, I don't care if I get any rewards or not, as long as I make it. Folks lie,

that's what folks do. Consider Lydia going to a birthday party she cares about taking a present for the guest of honor if she likes them, she cares about her appearance, she cares about what car she arrives in. She would not go there empty-handed, with singed hair and a blackened face and burned clothes being dropped off by a fire truck. The same with heaven. The only reason we want rewards there is so that we can cast them at the feet of Jesus, wouldn't it be a shame to show up empty-handed.

So, we'd better start looking now at the difference between walking in the spirit and walking in the flesh

Here's what is to have the works of the flesh: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lustfulness, idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, fightings, jealousies, angers, rivalries, divisions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkennesses, revelings, and things like these; Galatians 5:19-20; have jealousy and strife James 3:14; envyings, strife and divisions; I Corinthians 3:3.

Maybe we can mark off some of those, but others: being angry, envying, creating divisions, being jealous, creating strife, competing with one another - that's what happens in church when church people try to do spiritual things with unspiritual lives. If that's what you see in your church then you're not in church, you're in a social club that just happens to sing hymns and read scripture.

On the other hand, here's the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; Galatians 5:22-23; goodness, righteousness and truth, Ephesians 5:9; full of mercy and good fruits, James 3:17

If you're in a church where these things are happening, then you're in church.

We're only human.....Nobody's perfect.....

This came up in Sunday School a few weeks back when somebody said, "We're only human." and it comes up on Green Acres when Newt Kiley will tell Oliver Douglas, "well, nobody's perfect" and Oliver replies, "That ought to be the motto of this place."

before you get too comfortable in that, remember that we're not called to account by the standards of what Sunday School or New Kiley think. We're called to account by the standards of the Bible and the Bible says that we are to be holy and we are to be perfect.

SO HOW

Don't you hate messages that tell you what you should do and then never get around to telling you how to do it? Maybe that's another way we're shortchanging people.

It's really very simple. Not easy, but simple.

Quit trying. Quit trying to do better and to be better and to work on things. Work is what you do in the flesh. When you were saved, the Holy Spirit came to live inside you as a down payment or a security deposit for heaven. The Holy Spirit wants to lead and guide you and to start preparing you for heaven. He does that by making you more Godlike and less earthly.

So quit trying and let Him take over. Don't try to be patient, don't try to work your way into humility. It's like being on fire and instead of running around, the school kids learn to

Stop  
Drop  
and Roll

That works here too,

Stop trying to hard to accomplish something supernatural through your own natural ability

Drop your own strength and pride and pray for guidance or even for the Holy Spirit to take over in a situation

and Roll with the flow of that guidance and follow it, whether it makes sense or not.

You're not as smart as you think you are. The Bible says in effect that we're all stupid (like sheep), in fact, it says that evil and madness is in each of us. In other words, we're all dumb and we're all nuts. Why should we listen to somebody like that when we've got a much better guide available at all times in all situations.

You've got everything you need to handle anything, any situation, any person, any triumph, or any disaster if you'll just use it and quit relying on yourself.

I can't put it any plainer or any simpler than that.

Stop  
Drop  
and roll