



## **THE LIFE YOU NOW LIVE** **“I Live in the Body” Galatians 2:20**

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Paul's use of expressions like “I have been crucified with Christ” and “Christ lives in me” leads some to assume that spiritual life is mystical or impractical. But the specific statement that it is lived “in the body” should be noted and the resultant issues carefully considered.

### **I. The Differences in the Life I Now Live in the Body.**

- A. “The life I now live.” 2:20
- B. “My previous way of life.” 1:13
- C. The factors that made the difference.
  - 1. The divine dimension.
    - a. God was “pleased to reveal His Son in me.” 1:15
    - b. God “called me by His grace.” 1:6, 15
    - c. “God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.” 4:6
  - 2. The human response.
    - a. “What shall I do Lord?” Acts 22:10
    - b. “I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.” Acts 26:19

### **II. The Difficulties of the Life I Now Live in the Body.**

- A. The physical limitations of life in the body.
- B. The spiritual implications of life in the flesh. (Gk. Sarx)
  - 1. “Sarx”: “Human nature as it has become through sin...weakened, vitiated, tainted; man as he is apart from Jesus Christ and His Spirit.” Barclay
  - 2. “Sarx” as “human effort” endeavoring to achieve spiritual goals. 3:3
    - a. “Legalism” that seeks justification through self-effort.
    - b. “Nomism” that follows the law rather than depending on the Spirit.
    - c. If you began “in the Spirit,” why try to complete without the Spirit?
    - d. “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself in love.” 5:6
  - 3. “Sarx” as “sinful nature” abusing freedom in Christ. 5:13
    - a. Libertinism rejoicing in freedom from law embarks on antinomianism.
    - b. “Sinful nature” desires gratification contrary to the Spirit. 5:17
      - i. “Sarx” fights the Spirit.
      - ii. Spirit resists the “Sarx.”
      - iii. Struggle!
    - c. “Sarx” is countered when we “serve in love” and “live by the Spirit.”
  - 4. “Sarx” will produce legalism or libertinism. Only the Spirit produces life.
  - 5. “Sarx” has been crucified by those “who belong to Christ Jesus.” 5:24
    - a. Believers recognize that in Christ they have died to “sarx.”
    - b. That means they have embraced Christ as the dynamic of their lives.
    - c. And they have rejected libertinism as an option...
    - d. A position they maintain by “keep(ing) in step with the Spirit.” 5:25

**Points to Ponder:** Life “in the flesh” leads to legalism or libertinism. How effectively are we countering these tendencies?