

## **DISCERNING THE FLESH**

Romans 8:5-8

### **TEST YOUR MOTIVES**

**1.**

Is my decision for the **FLESH**?

- Am I doing it for my self-interest? *Phil. 2:3-4*
- Is it against God's word? *Ps. 119:11*
- Is it contrary to those in authority? *Rom. 13:1; Heb. 13:17*
- Am I feeling frustrated, angry, or fearful? *Gal. 5:16-21*
- Is there a lack of contentment? *1 Tim. 6:6*

*If so, the result is **DEATH, LOSS, and CORRUPTION!***

**2.**

Is my decision for the **SPIRIT**?

- Is it in agreement with God's Word? *John 6:63*
- Am I doing it in recognition that my life is not my own? *2 Cor. 5:15*
- Am I acknowledging God's sovereign control in everything and trusting Him to work things out? *Rom. 8:28*

*If so, the result is **LIFE & PEACE!***

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- - It is possible to do a good thing with a wrong motive.
- People look at our actions. God looks at our heart (motive) Proverbs 16:2.
- Galatians 5:16-21
- Motive is the key. It's not so much what we do but why we do it.
- How can one determine if an action is being motivated by the flesh or by the Spirit? The diagram above can help answer that question. For example: if I avoid someone because of fear, frustration, or anger, that is a fleshly motive.