

Church Hurt: When the Family of God is in the Flesh, Look to the Comforts of Christ
Andrea Kolstad - Shepherds' Wives Conference 2026

I. What is Church Hurt? The Contrast of Gal. 5

The _____ laid out for us in this passage IS the armor we need to respond to and endure “church hurt.”

(vs13-14) Contrast *loving and serving* one another versus _____ one another.

(vs15) This biting and devouring is _____ and taking place among _____.

(vs16) A command that gives further contrast: _____ in the Spirit.

The fact that we are commanded to walk in the Spirit implies _____ & _____. This is the flesh, and the flesh isn't just present; it is lusting - intense desiring and craving *against the Spirit*.

Obedience to the command to walk in the Spirit is the _____ means of conquering the flesh! In this command, we see the ultimate contrast: *the Spirit vs. the flesh*.

Think of church hurt as “*the _____ of God in the flesh*.” The flesh can _____ be conquered by obediently walking in the Spirit.

Conflict (vs17) Note that the contrast points to _____.

The flesh vs the Spirit is a raging personal battle with _____ ramifications. We see this clearly when we look at the deeds of the flesh.

Comparison (vs19-23) The _____ and the fruits of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:20-21	2 Cor. 12:20
Hatred Enmity fueled by hatred and hostility, quarrels	Contentions Strife, debate contention
Contentions Wrangling, strife, debate; choosing sides	Jealousies Envious, contentious rivalry, jealousy
Jealousy Fear of losing what one may have	Outbursts of Wrath Passion, angry, heat, anger that boils up and subsides again
Outbursts of Wrath Fiery flashes of rage	Selfish Ambitions/Conceits A desire to put oneself forward
Selfish ambitions Devotion to one's own interests, self-centered, contentious, competitive, & factious “pride that prompts [men] to push for their own way” JMA	Backbitings Defamation, evil speaking
Dissensions Party intrigues, divisions, and groups working against each other	Whisperings Secret slandering
Envyings Displeasure at what another has	Tumults Of seditions

The horrible truth is that these deeds of the flesh not only mark the habitual practice of unbelievers, who will not inherit the kingdom of God, but also mark the acts the family of God is _____ of committing when *not* walking in the Spirit.

What is active in each of these sins? The _____.

II. Identifying Fleshly Fruit in the Family of God. How do we, as Shepherds' Wives, often experience the deeds of the flesh? Are there Biblical examples of the family of God in the flesh?

As the wife of a shepherd, labor to become familiar with the countless examples given us in Scripture and to _____ what Scripture says about the purpose and importance of these examples (*Rom. 15:4, I Cor. 10:1-11*).

A comprehensive OT example of ministry hurt from a leader's perspective. *Numbers 11-16*

- 11:1-3
- 11:14-15
- 12:1-2
- 14:1-4
- 16:1-5
- 16:19 (*Prov. 26:17*)
- 16:41

III. The Comforts of the Good Shepherd Jesus Christ. Who, alone, perfectly walked in the Spirit?

As ministry wives, we must learn this vital lesson: run _____ to Christ and commune with Him, for He alone knows all things. We must study His _____ so we have a *specific* example of walking in the Spirit, for Christ ALWAYS walked in the Spirit!

Matt. 26:14-46 He perfectly walked in the Spirit, meaning He _____ others & _____ the Father perfectly.

IV. Walk in the Spirit and Walk in Wisdom

- Pray and obey.
- Use biblical language when confessing your fleshly struggles & identifying the fleshly actions of others.
- Give thanks. *I Thess. 5:17*. Discern _____ vs sin.
- Thematic reading of _____.
- *Prov 15:28* be prepared to _____.
- Take time to _____ (*Ps. 13*) and heal at the foot of the Cross. Grieving, yet believing.
- The greatest sting is the _____ side of things. *I Pet. 2:23*
- Preach confidence in **God** to your heart. *Ps. 20:7, 146:9-11*. "If being hurt by the church causes you to lose faith in God, then your faith was in people, not in God." A.W. Tozer
- To help keep your heart in a position of being willing and ready to forgive, remind your heart that you'll be with these brothers and sisters in _____ around the throne of God. *Jude 24-5*.
- Be a self-controlled shepherd's wife walking in the Spirit, and do not add _____ burden to your husband as he deals with fleshly sheep.
- What does my flesh stand to gain through my attitudes and actions? Am I feeding contention?