

# Religion in the Flesh

by Andrew Murray

---

*Religion in the flesh leads to pride, selfishness, and becoming servants of sin, but true spiritual growth and obedience come from letting the Spirit lead and rule in our lives.*

**Scripture:** John 4:24, Romans 8:8, Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 3:3, Galatians 5:16-17, Ephesians 2:8-9, Philippians 3:3, James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6

**Topics:** "Self-Denial", "Spiritual Leadership"

---

## Description

Andrew Murray emphasizes the dangers of relying on 'religion in the flesh,' warning against the pride and selfishness that can arise from self-righteousness, as exemplified by the Pharisees. He highlights the Galatians' struggle with trying to perfect their faith through fleshly works rather than through the Spirit, cautioning that such an approach leads to bondage and conflict among believers. Murray asserts that true worship and obedience can only occur when the Spirit leads, and that self-denial must begin in our relationship with God before it can manifest in our interactions with others.

---

## Transcript

Do we not know, how the Pharisees, with 'self-righteousness and carnal religion, fell into pride and selfishness, and became the servants of sin? Was it not just among the Galatians, of whom Paul asks the question about perfecting in flesh what was begun in the Spirit, and whom he has so to warn against the righteousness of works, that the works of the flesh were so manifest, and that they were in danger of devouring one another? Satan has no more crafty device for keeping souls in bondage than inciting them to a religion in the flesh.

He knows that the power of flesh can never please God or conquer sin, and in due time the flesh that has gained supremacy over the Spirit in the service of God, will assert and maintain that same supremacy in the service of sin.

It is only where the Spirit truly and unceasingly has the entire lead and rule in the life of worship, that it will have the power to lead and rule in the life of practical obedience. If I am to deny self in: intercourse with men, to conquer selfishness and temper and want of love, I must first learn to deny self in the intercourse with God. There the soul, seat of self, must learn to bow to the Spirit, where God dwells.

---

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/andrew-murray/religion-in-the-flesh/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**