

It certainly is not a correct interpretation of this verse because this vs. as you continue you see clear evidence that it is speaking of the Holy Spirit. "For if ye are led of the Spirit ye are not under the law" the next vs. says. And then it goes on and tells of the works of the flesh, and then vs. 22 continues: "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, etc." The vs. just before vs. 17 has this: "This I say then, walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh."

There are some who say, Oh the flesh refers to the sinful nature. It has nothing to do with the body. Now I think that is ~~just~~ playing a little bit fast and loose with words. ~~Of course~~ The word flesh is a common word used for the body. It is used for animal bodies, it is used for human bodies. It is a common word in that sense. To take this word and simply appropriate it for something entirely different to the matter of the sinful nature apart ~~altogether~~ ^{altogether} from the idea of body it seems to me must be wrong. There must be a primary reference to the body in the verse.

But this vs. is not ~~it~~ ^a conflict between the human body and the human spirit because the context shows it is speaking of the Spirit of God. Yet there is a contrast between the human spirit and the human body. This is brought out clearly in Matthew where we read about the disciples at Gethsemane and when Jesus called to the disciples and found they were sleeping, Jesus said: Watch and pray that ~~ye~~ ye enter not into temptation, the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak." (Mat.26:41). Here He is not talking about the Holy Spirit. Here He is talking about the human spirit and He is contrasting the willingness, the desire of the human spirit to serve the Lord but the weakness of the flesh in this case. Jesus said to woman at the well of Samaria: God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. ^o He was not there referring to the Holy Spirit. That woman had never heard of the Holy Spirit. He was talking about our spirit. So there is a contrast between the spirit and the body. Now the idea that the body is evil and the spirit alone is good, is I believe not an idea that is definitely taught in Scripture. What do we mean by the human flesh, the human spirit? I wish time permitted to look a bit more in detail to the relation between human flesh and animal