

Walking in the Spirit
Session #1 – Freedom to Love

Galatians 5:13-26

¹³ For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ¹⁵ But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

Seven Background Questions to Better Understand Galatians.

1. Who wrote Galatians?

- Paul (Gal. 1:1)
- Galatians was the 1st book of the New Testament.

2. Where is Galatia?

- Galatia was where Southern Turkey now is.
- Paul and Barnabas ministered here during their 1st missionary journey. (Acts 13-14)

3. What internal issue within the churches of Galatia does Paul address?

- A distorted view of the Christian's freedom in Christ. An improper understanding of the gospel. (Gal. 1:6-9)
 - a. Some wanted to add the bondage of "keeping the law" and "circumcision" to the message of the gospel. (Legalism/Judaizers Gal. 2:3-7)
 - b. Some wanted to live the Christian life without restraining the flesh. (libertarians/antinomians (Gal. 5:13)

4. What is the message of Galatians?

- The truth of the Gospel (Gal. 2:4, 15)

5. What is the result of this message?

- Freedom in Christ: Christian liberty. (Gal. 2:4; 5:1, 13)

6. What is Christian liberty?

- It is freedom from bondage of the law.
 - a. Salvation (Justification) by faith through Christ alone (Gal. 2:16)
 - b. Sanctification by faith through the Spirit. (Gal. 3:2-3)

7. How does the Christian practice Christian Liberty?

- By "Walking in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16): by faith yielding one's members to do the desires of God in contrast to the desires of our flesh, that constantly results in one choosing choices of love toward God and others.

Three Questions to Better Understand Christian Liberty.

Question #1 – What is Christian Liberty?

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty

- **Christian liberty is the birthright of all believers.**
 - a. All Christians have received a general calling to salvation through the preaching of the Word. **Gal. 1:6** *marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:*
 - b. All Christians have received a specific calling to salvation through the gracious work of God. **Gal. 1:15** *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,*
 - c. All Christians at salvation have been given Christian liberty. **Gal. 5:13** *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty*
- **Christian liberty is freedom from the bondage of the law.**
 - a. **Freedom from the law as a means of salvation**
 - i. The law never justifies it only condemns.

Gal. 3:23 *But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.*

Gal. 4:3 *Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:*

Gal. 4:8 *Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.*

ii. Justification comes through Christ alone.

Gal. 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

Gal. 3:11-13 *But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith . . . Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us:*

Gal. 4:4-7 *God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*

You are free, for Christ . . .

- Lived under the covenant of the law
- Kept the law perfectly
- Went to the cross to die for all the laws you broke
- Sets you free from the curse of the law
- Imputes His righteousness to your account

***Our right standing your with God is based on our relationship with the Jesus Christ**

b. **Freedom from the law as a means of Sanctification through the Spirit of God.**

Gal. 3:2-3 *Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?³ Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect in the flesh?*

Gal. 3:14 *That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

Gal. 5:5 *For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.*

Gal. 5:16 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

Remember - Walking in the Spirit is . . . “By faith yielding one’s members to do the desires of God in contrast to the desires of our flesh, that constantly results in one choosing choices of love toward God and others. “

Therefore:

1. Only the Christian enjoys this freedom – the unconverted are still under sin and the law.
2. All Christians enjoy this freedom – not just the super saints or cosmic Christians.
3. This freedom is permanent - this is not based on the believer’s obedience or spirituality.

Question #2 – How is Christian Liberty Abused?

only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh

- **Liberty is abused when the believer allows the flesh to twist his understanding of the freedom from the law into an opportunity to gratify its own desires.**
 - a. *brethren* - this was written to believers
 - b. *opportunity* - staging ground/military staging area/base of operations
 - c. The logic can go . . .
 - i. We really have a permanent standing with Christ.
 - ii. We are free from the Law.
 - iii. We can be in the flesh all we want.
 - d. *Flesh* – there are different senses to this word
 - Human Beings** – Gal. 2:16 *yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*
 - Physical bodies** – Gal. 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*
 - Human Effort** – Gal. 3:3 *Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?*
 - Sinful Human Nature** – Gal. 5:16 *But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

- **Liberty is abused when the believer uses his freedom to hurt others.**
 - a. **Gal. 5:15** *But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.*
 - b. The natural bent of the flesh is to be self serving.
- **Liberty is forgotten when the believer allows the fear of freedom abuse to cause him to return to living under the law.**

The law never justifies or sanctifies!

Rom. 7:7-11 *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.*

Remember - Walking in the Spirit is . . . “By faith yielding one’s members to do the desires of God in contrast to the desires of our flesh, that constantly results in one choosing choices of love toward God and others. “

Question #3 – How is Liberty is Governed?

. . . but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself

- **Christian liberty is to be governed by love.**
 - a. **Lev. 19:18** *...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself; I am the LORD.*

- b. **Rom. 13:8** *Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

• **Christian liberty is to result in service.**

- a. *Serve one another* = slave one another.
- b. Whereas the law is restrictive and negative, love is free and positive.
- c. Whereas under the law everyone is looking for a loop hole, love seeks to go above and beyond.
- d. Rather than *“biting and devouring”*, love is seeking to serve.

Therefore:

- The antidote for the flesh is not the law but love!
- Love restricts its actions because it cares for others.
- There is no limit on loving or serving one another.
- The only alternative for refusing to love is to slip back to the flesh.
- There is no middle ground between the flesh and the Spirit.

Remember - Walking in the Spirit is . . . “By faith yielding one’s members to do the desires of God in contrast to the desires of our flesh, that constantly results in one choosing choices of love toward God and others. “

**Walking in the Spirit
Session #2 – The Method of the Flesh**

Gal. 5:16-18

¹⁶ *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.* ¹⁷ *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.* ¹⁸ *But if ye be led of the Spirit ye are not under the law.*

Walking in the Spirit is the only way to live the Christian life.

- 1) It is commanded - *“Walk in the Spirit”*
- 2) It is the means of protection from the flesh – *“so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”*
- 3) It is the means to practice Christian liberty – *“ye are not under the law.”*

Ten Questions about the Flesh –

- 1) **What is the flesh?** Paul uses the term “flesh” with different senses.
 - a. **Human Beings** – Gal. 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*
 - b. **Physical bodies** – Gal. 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*
 - c. **Human Effort** – Gal. 3:3 *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*
 - d. **Sinful Human Nature** – Gal. 5:16 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

Other Definitions –

The flesh is that part of us that tries to usurp God's control and replace it with our own way. – Jim Berg

The flesh is that part of a believer that functions apart from and against the Spirit. It stands against the work of the Spirit in the believer's new heart.

2) What are some other Biblical names for the flesh?

- a. Sin – Rom 7:11
- b. Sin that dwelleth – Rom 7:17
- c. My flesh – Rom 7:18
- d. The law of sin – Rom 7:23
- e. Body of death – Rom 7:24
- f. Law of sin and death – Rom 8:2
- g. Carnal mind – Rom 8:7

3) What are the characteristics of the flesh?

- a. **This Flesh has intellect** – Rom. 8:7 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*
- b. **This Flesh has will** – Eph. 2:3 *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*
- c. **This Flesh has desire** – Gal. 5:16 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

The flesh has all the parts of human personality (mind, will and emotions). The flesh is more than a capacity. It is a nature. However, this is not an independent person from the individual.

There is one person - yet there are two natures

- **Rom. 7:18** *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*
- **Rom. 7:24** *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*
- **Rom 7:25** *I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.*
- **Rom 8:7** *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

4) What is the essence of the flesh?

It is the opposite of love and the opposite of God's desires. It is selfishness.

Gal. 5:14-16 *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.*

5) What is the flesh's attitude toward God and His law?

The flesh is hostile toward God and unable to submit to His law.

Rom. 8:7 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

6) What does the law do to the flesh?

Aggravates the sin nature

Rom 7:7-12 *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had no known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be un-*

death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

7) Can you be in the flesh and the spirit? No

Every breath of life will be spent in either the flesh or walking in the Spirit.

Gal. 5:17 *For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*

8) What will you reap if you sow to the flesh?

Gal. 6:8 *For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

9) Does everyone manifest their flesh in the same way? No –

We all have our own way.

James 1:14 *But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

10) What is the antidote to the flesh?

Walk in the Spirit – Gal 5:16– by faith yielding one’s members to do the desires of God in contrast to the desires of our flesh, that constantly results in one choosing choices of love toward God and others.

Statements Regarding the Law –

But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

The phrase “not under the law” does not mean that God has done away with the moral law altogether. God’s laws are a reflection of the character of God.

“Although we cannot gain acceptance by keeping the law, yet once we have been accepted we shall keep the law out of love for Him (for

it reflects who He is), who has accepted us and has given us His Spirit to enable us to keep it.” John Stott

- **Through Christ we are free from the rule of the law as a means of salvation and sanctification.**

Rom. 7:4,6 *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.*

- **You cannot overcome the flesh with the law.**

Rom. 8:7 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

- **Victory over the flesh comes through walking in the Spirit.**

Rom. 8:3-4 *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.*

Flesh Tricks – Learning the method of your flesh

James 1:13-15

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Two Flesh Facts –

- 1) The desire of the flesh is destruction
- 2) The method of the flesh is deceit

Illustrated from the Garden of Eden

Genesis 3:1, 4-6

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: ⁵For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. ⁶And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Illustrated from the heart of man

Titus 3:3

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

Ephes. 4:22

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

1) The Flesh deceives us:

- a. Attacking our beliefs. (*Drawn away*)
 - i. About the character of God
 - “For God doth know”
 - ii. About the consequences of Sin
 - “Ye shall not surely die”
 - iii. About the condition of your heart
 - “beguiled me”
- b. Alluring our affections. (*Enticed*)
 - i. Lust of the Flesh

- “good for food”
- ii. Lust of the Eyes
 - “pleasant to the eyes”
- iii. Pride of Life
 - “make one wise”

When flesh deceives you, you will sin –

2) The Flesh devastates us:

- a. Capturing our will (Conceiving sin)
 - i. “When she”
- b. Convincing us to sin (Birth of sin)
 - i. “did eat”
- c. Controlling our life (enslavement to sin)
 - i. **Rom. 5:12** *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

The Way we Work -

“If your mind is persuaded to believe a sin is good for your soul, and your affections work up an appetite for it, your will gives its consent.”

The lies of the flesh –

- 1) You can handle this temptation on your own.
- 2) If you tell anyone about this sin, you will be really embarrassed.
- 3) Go ahead and enjoy. You can always ask God to forgive you later.
- 4) You deserve a little pleasure.
- 5) How can anything that feels this good be that wrong?
- 6) You made it I bet you will never be tempted again.

- 7) If God loved you, He would give you total victory.
- 8) You might as well go ahead. Your accountability partner doesn't care.
- 9) You are so tired... just sleep.
- 10) Not today. How about tomorrow?
- 11) I bet _____ will really like you if _____.
- 12) Only one more time.
- 13) Since you have already blown it, get your fill.
- 14) It really is not that big of a sin.
- 15) Look at _____. Compared to them you are a great Christian.
- 16) Don't study that sin out, because then you will be convicted.
- 17) If you don't _____, they will think that you are trying to be more spiritual.
- 18) Don't worry about it.
- 19) You could never live without.

Walking in the Spirit Session #3 – Evidences of the Flesh

Gal. 5:19-21

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adulter fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

If Christian liberty is being abused, it will be obvious. The evidences of the flesh are self evident. **The question that you need to be asked is . . .**

What is your "Flesh Bent"?

- What are the 4-5 most obvious evidences of the flesh in you life?
- When left to your own vices what areas of flesh do you drift to?
- What flesh drives do you see consistently appear in your life?
- What would others say to be your "self evident" expression of the flesh?

What are the evidences of the Flesh as revealed in scripture?

1 Cor. 6:9-11

fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Rom. 1:29-31

Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud,

boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

Mark 7:21-23

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Rev. 21:8

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

1 Tim. 1:9-11

Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine;

Ephes. 5:3-7

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater,

Col. 3:5-9

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath

of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

1 Peter 4:3

For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the work of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

Evidences of the Flesh Defined

1. **Adultery**—a voluntary, intimate relationship of a married person with someone else who may be married or single
2. **Fornication**—all kinds of sexual immorality actual and mental (pornography). This could be a voluntary sexual relationship between those who are uncommitted to the covenant of marriage.
3. **Uncleanness** (impurity)—soiling oneself morally. These could be things done in secret that are disgraceful to speak of in public
4. **Lasciviousness** (sensuality)—the ability to sin without shame or being indifferent to outrageous behavior
5. **Homosexuality** – intimate physical relationship with someone of the same gender
6. **Idolatry**—to render service to an image. Idolatry also includes seeking to find security and satisfaction in someone or something else by raising them to the level of God.
7. **Witchcraft**—sorcery; magical arts; the use of drugs to communicate with spirits
8. **Hatred**—enmity; hostile; bitter enemies. The opposite of a friend, racism.
9. **Variance**—contention, strife, wrangling. This includes the actions of people who are contentious, hard to get along with, and constantly fighting.

10. **Emulations** (jealousy)—to boil with heat or get hot, zeal, excitement of mind; fervor of spirit. A self-centered zeal for one's own self-interest that feels threatened by the success of others
11. **Wrath**—passion; outburst of anger that boils up quickly and explodes and then soon subsides
12. **Strife**—this used to describe an employee hired out for personal gain. The idea is one who is driven by selfish ambition. It was also used to describe men who sought political office by unfair means.
13. **Murders**—the ultimate end of antagonism against one another
14. **Heresies**—the act of taking, of capturing a strong city; a sect that arises from diversities of opinions and aims
15. **Covetousness** - The inordinate desire to possess what belongs to another, usually tangible things.
16. **Envy**—a zeal for one's own self-interest that corrodes into a malice, ill-will, or malignant hostility for one's competitor
17. **Lying** – Not telling the truth. This could be done through non-verbal communication or partial truth telling.
18. **Stealing** – Taking anything that does not belong to you; includes cheating.
19. **Disobedient to parents** – failing to honor with a attitude of submission
20. **Fear** – Not trusting God's promises and doubting his character.
21. **Pride** –Undue confidence in and attention to one's own skills, accomplishments, state, possessions, or position
22. **Boaster** –can be committed only in the presence of other persons "Haughtiness" or "arrogance" measures self as above others. This word refers primarily to the attitude of one's heart.
23. **Drunkness**—intoxication
24. **Reveling**—a group of drunks gathered together; these are drinking parties that run late into the night.

25. **Gossip and Slander** – Speaking ill of another. This may include words that are true but are spoken in a way to hurt.

Words of Warning:

In the past, Paul had warned that those who profess to be believers and live in the continual practice of these things do not have any inheritance in the kingdom of God. Is it possible for Christians to have relapses into the flesh? Absolutely! However, true believers cannot live in this state permanently. When a believer is walking in the Spirit, these flesh-works will not be controlling his life. Instead, he will be living in victory over them.

Remember, walking in the Spirit is not:

- Making more laws
- Manifesting the works of the flesh
- Focusing on your flesh

Walking in the Spirit is:

By faith, yielding one's members to do the desires of God in contrast to the desires of our flesh, that constantly results in one choosing choices of love toward God and others.

Walking in the Spirit

Session #4 – The Fruit of the Spirit

Gal. 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Notice the Contrast:

- The essence of the works of the flesh is selfishness.
- The essence of walking in the Spirit is love.
- The expressions of the works of the flesh are limitless.
- The expression of the fruit of the spirit is single – Christ-likeness.

Observations regarding the Fruit of the Spirit:

- These qualities are based upon the believer's union with Christ through the indwelling presence of the Spirit (Galatians 3:1-3).
- The Fruit is singular. One jewel with nine facets.
- They are not developed by the strenuous observance of a strict legal code or by self-effort on demand.
- The fruit of the Spirit come over a process of time as a believer develops daily dependence on the inward influence of the Spirit of God.
- The Fruit of the Spirit is a character sketch of Christ.

The Fruit of the Spirit manifested in the believer's relationship with God –

- **Love**
 - Love is the sum and source of all the rest.
 - We are liberated for the purpose of selflessly and sacrificially serving one another through love.
 - Love is to be the controlling force of the Christian.
- **Joy**

- Closely related to peace.
- Joy is found in the hope that we have in the Gospel.
- Resting in the control of divine sovereignty.
- Confident of spiritual victory.
- It finds its highest delight in the Lord and His presence.
- Joy is not affected by one's circumstances.

- **Peace**

- Peace is the well being and tranquility of the soul that comes from being rightly related to God and others.
- This includes the peace of eternal security.

The Fruit of the Spirit manifested in the believer's relationship toward others –

- **Longsuffering**

- Longsuffering is patience in our relationships with people.
- It defers anger when provoked, refuses to retaliate when mistreated, and rises above irritation when aggravated.

- **Gentleness**

- Gentleness is a gracious, kind, caring attitude towards those that are around us.
- This was displayed to sinners by God (Titus 2:4-5) and is to be shown by us even when others sin against us.

- **Goodness**

- Goodness is a giving spirit shown in ways of practical generosity.

The Fruit of the Spirit manifested in the believer's responsibility toward himself –

- **Faith**

- Faith is the quality of being faithful and includes trustworthiness, loyalty, dependability, and reliability.

- A faith-filled person is one on whom we can rely and depend.
- He is loyal to others, because he is loyal to God.
- **Meekness**
 - Meekness shows itself in the way we react to God-given authority or to difficult circumstances.
 - It includes a humble submission to God's sovereignty and a teachable spirit towards those who touch our lives.
 - It does not react, retaliate, or rebel but sweetly submits to the will of God throughout the daily frustrations of life.
- **Temperance**
 - Temperance includes self-control over inward selfish desires.
 - It is learning to say "no" to the flesh
 - Includes several areas of self-control: personal use of time, inward thoughts, eating habits, personal use of finances, restraint of the tongue.

Therefore . . .

- Walking in the Spirit fulfills all that the law requires, so believers are clearly no longer under "the law."
- God has exposed us to fruits of the Spirit that we might know and desire them in our lives.
- How can the believer see this fruit in his/her life?
 - Notice the principle of sowing and reaping (Gal. 6:7-8).
 - Seeing the Fruit of the Spirit developed is based on the daily choices of a believer to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
 - This is a hunger to be like Christ.

Remember, walking in the Spirit is not:

- Making more laws
- Manifesting the works of the flesh
- Focusing on your flesh

Walking in the Spirit is:

By faith, yielding one's members to do the desires of God in contrast to the desires of our flesh, that constantly results in one choosing choices of love toward God and others.

Walking in the Spirit Session #5 – Keep in Step with the Spirit

Gal. 5:24-26 *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*

How does the believer walk in the Spirit?

- 1) The Christian's ability to walk in the Spirit began at his conversion. **Gal 5:24** *And they that are Christ's . . .*
- 2) When the Christian was converted he repented of his old life of sin and selfishness. **Gal 5:24** *have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*
- 3) It is the believer's responsibility to continue to mortify his flesh. **Gal 5:24** *have crucified*
- 4) At conversion the Holy Spirit began to dwell in the life of the believer. **Gal 5:25** *If we live in the Spirit.*
- 5) It is the believer's responsibility to keep in step with the Holy Spirit. **Gal 5:25** *let us also walk in the Spirit*

Walking in the Spirit defined -

By faith yielding one's members to do the desires of God in contrast to the desires of our flesh, that consistently results in one choosing choices of love toward God and others.

Restated from Romans:

1) Know your position in Christ.

Rom. 6:6-10 *Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*

In Christ the believer is . . .

- You are dead to _____.
- You are alive to _____.

Therefore the believer is no longer under. . .

- The power of sin.
- The commendation of the law.

2) Reckon or believe your position to be true.

Rom. 6:11-12 *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

Believe it...

- **You do not have to sin.**
- **You can now walk in the Spirit.**
- **You cannot do both at the same time.**

3) Yield yourself to the desires of the Spirit.

Rom. 6:13 *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

Rom. 6:16 *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

1) You now have a choice of what you do

2) You now have a choice of who you serve

Application:

- 1) Yield to the _____
- 2) Yield with a motive of _____
- 3) Yielding is _____ (trust and obey)

Walking in the Spirit defined -

By faith yielding one's members to do the desires of God in contrast to the desires of our flesh, that consistently results in one choosing choices of love toward God and others.

The Essential Characteristic of the Spirit Walking Christian is faith. This results in the Christian being . . .

- 1) **Word Filled** – Disciplined to know the character and commands of God.
- 2) **Gospel Centered** – Convinced that the finished work of Christ is the only means of Salvation from sin
- 3) **Spirit Lead** – Conditioned to sense and obey the promptings of the Holy

One last reminder:

- Christian liberty without love will result in vain glory.
- Boasting in the law or liberty only provokes or causes envy.

What to do when you see yourself sowing to the Flesh?

1. Immediately yield to your true master
2. Confess your sin to God
3. Renew your mind with the Word
4. Live in grace and ask for mercy (motives)