

Walk by the Spirit  
Galatians 5:16-26  
May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

1. \_\_\_\_\_ in conflict (5:16-18)

We walk by the Spirit in humble \_\_\_\_\_ and  
conscious \_\_\_\_\_.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ of the flesh (5:19-21)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit (5:22-23)

4. \_\_\_\_\_ (5:24-26)

Questions for Discussion/Reflection on Galatians 5:16-26

1. Every Christian knows the experience of trying to do the right thing but struggling and failing at times.
  - a. How does Romans 7:15-25 describe that experience?
  - b. What are some common ways Christians respond after struggling and failing?
  - c. How does Colossians 2:21-23 describe one common response? What is wrong with that response?
2. How does Jesus in John 15:1-5 describe the result of trying to bear fruit apart from Him?
3. How does 1 Corinthians 3:1-4 describe people who are “fleshly”? What does this tell us about the need for the Spirit to work within us?
4. Does anything stand out to you from the “deeds of the flesh” list?
  - a. How does the list compare to 1 Corinthians 6:9-11?
  - b. What benefit is there to the reader from the specificity of a list like this in scripture? i.e. How is a detailed list better than simply saying “sin” in general terms?
5. Read 2 Peter 1:2-7. How does this list compare and contrast with the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5? What does 2 Peter emphasize about our own effort? How does that fit with crucifying the flesh in Galatians 5:24?

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Big idea: Only if we walk by the Spirit will we see the fruit of the Spirit in our lives rather than the deeds of the flesh.

Intro

1. **Desires** in conflict (5:16-18)
  - a. Walk by the Spirit in humble **submission** and conscious **dependence**.
2. **Deeds** of the flesh (5:19-21)
  - a. George – “15 one word illustrations of the works of the flesh”
  - b. I’m going to take a little time on these words because I want you to see the breadth of what is described as coming from our flesh.
  - c. Four categories: Sexual, Spiritual, Conflict, Partying
    - i. Sexual – immorality, impurity, sensuality
      1. Timothy George – significant that the first three acts in the list of sins have to do with loose sexual relations. Why this prioritizing of sexual immorality? It is not because these sins are more intrinsically heinous than the others but rather because they display more graphically the self-centeredness and rebellion against God’s norm that mark all of the others as well.
      2. Immorality is a general term for any sexual activity outside of marriage between a man and a woman.
      3. Impurity has both a medical and a ceremonial idea.
        - a. Medically you think of how an unclean wound must be cleaned before medicine can be applied
        - b. Ceremonially, impurity was something that would keep someone from participating in temple worship in the OT. It must be cleaned before the people could come near.
        - c. Sin was described in the Bible as something that brought impurity.
        - d. **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
      4. Sensuality – translated debauchery, lewdness also
        - a. Such a loose regard for God’s moral boundaries that the person is no longer ashamed, no longer cares what God or man thinks of his actions.
        - b. **Jeremiah 6:15** "Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; They did not even know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the LORD.
    - ii. Spiritual – idolatry, sorcery
      1. False worship with idolatry
      2. *pharmakeia* – pharmakon, literally “drug” from which we derive our English word “pharmacy.”

- a. Is this targeting the pharmacists in our midst? No, non-medicinal drugs were often used in combination with occultic rituals, which is why this is translated as “sorcery” here or “witchcraft” in another translation.
  - iii. Conflict – enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying
    1. This is where we spent some time last week as we considered how we can bite and devour one another.
    2. Enmities and strife – people pitting against one another rather than working with and for one another.
    3. Jealousy and envying – similar, many expressions – wanting what other people have.
      - a. Sometimes explodes in violence, like Joseph and his brothers.
      - b. Failing to accept the life, gifts, opportunities, that God has given you.
    4. Outbursts of anger – thumos – like an exploding volcano
    5. Disputes and dissensions – both are used in political culture of office seeking, self-promotion, party spirit
      - a. When one group thinks of themselves as the exclusive elite
      - b. Factions result – as mini-groups within the church pull away from others, not in the healthy way that a church must grow smaller as it grows larger, but rather in a prideful separation from others within the body of a different social status or income bracket.
  - iv. Partying – drunkenness, carousing
    1. Abuse of alcohol, and then behavior that tends to go with it as inhibitions are pulled back.
  - d. And if that isn’t enough, there’s a blanket “thinks like these” that shows it isn’t an exhaustive list.
  - e. You likely see yourself in one or more of these words, and that’s painful. Is it a practice though? Or is it confessed, repented of, turned from, grieved over, and decreasing?
    - i. Those who practice these things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
3. **Fruit** of the Spirit (5:22-23)
4. **Summary** (5:24-26)
- 5.



1

Truth #1 - Conflicting desires is normal.

Truth #2 - Growth is possible.

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1. *Desires* in conflict  
(5:16-18)

3

We walk by the Spirit in  
humble *submission* and  
conscious *dependence*.

4

**John 7:37-39** Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" <sup>39</sup> But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

5

**Romans 8:12-14** So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- <sup>13</sup> for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

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**Romans 8:9** However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

7

John MacArthur: The power for **Christian living** is entirely from the **Holy Spirit**, just as the power of **salvation** is entirely in **Jesus Christ**. But both in the justifying work of Christ and in the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, man's will is active and commitment is called for.

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## 2. Deeds of the flesh (5:19-21)

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**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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**Jeremiah 6:15a** "Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; They did not even know how to blush. ... says the LORD.

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## 3. Fruit of the Spirit (5:22-23)

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## 4. Summary (5:24-26)

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