

***Fourth Sunday after Pentecost ~ June 16, 2013***



***Life Group & Family  
Discussion Guide***

***“Walk By the Spirit”***

**Galatians 5:16-26**

This week we are continuing our sermon series on the book of Galatians. And, this week, things begin to take a turn. In the first five and a half chapters, the Apostle Paul eloquently displayed the doctrine of justification by faith in various ways. Now, in the second half of chapter five, Paul exhorts followers of Jesus to “walk by the Spirit.” The result of believing that you are justified is a desire to be sanctified (made more like Jesus). Here Paul teaches us how that occurs.



## **DISCUSS WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP:**

1. **Read Galatians 5:16-26.** Discuss your initial reactions. What stands out?

---

---

---
2. Look at vs. 16 & 17. What does Paul tell us about the Holy Spirit and the sin nature (the flesh)?

---

---

---
3. Take a look at the (not exhaustive) list of the “works of the flesh” (19-20). Describe the effect on a person’s life when they engage in such behaviors on a regular basis. Do any of these things bring real, lasting joy? Do any of these things ruin marriages, families, and/or careers? In what ways?

---

---

---
4. If Paul was completely convinced that we are justified by faith alone, what does he mean by the second half of verse 21? Revisit 2:20, and look at 5:24. Would we say that people who continue in sin can lose their justification – or, would we say that people who continue in sin aren’t actually believers?

---

---

---
5. How does the metaphor of “fruit of the Spirit” teach that the most important factor in sanctification (spiritual formation) is faith? How do we know which trees are apple trees? Then, how do we know which people have been crucified with Christ and have Christ living inside of them, by the Holy Spirit?

---

---

---

6. Look at verse 25. We need to believe we have been crucified with Christ, AND we need to “keep in step with the Spirit.” Does that mean that, while we play no part in our justification, we do play a part in our sanctification? Discuss.

---

---

---

7. Our sanctification (becoming more like Christ) is a result of our justification (being declared righteous in Christ). So, we do not strive to become more like Christ in order to be justified. Why, then, would we strive to grow more like Christ?

---

---

---

8. What effect would it have on your life if you were experiencing more of the fruit of the Spirit (22)? What effect would it have on your ability to proclaim the good news and demonstrate the compassion of God to people in your neighborhood?

---

---

---



## **DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY:**

1. Work together to memorize Galatians 5:22-23. Go around the house and find objects that could be used to represent each character trait listed. Perhaps a stuffed heart, or one cut out of paper, could represent “love.” Once you have an object for all nine of the character traits, line them up in order and have each person try to give the whole list without looking at the words (yet with help from the objects). Then discuss how we can be loving, joyful, peaceful, etc... by believing that Jesus has given us His Holy Spirit to empower us to do so. And, best of all, discuss how Jesus’ death on the cross paid for all of the times we have failed (or will fail) to be loving, joyful, etc... Celebrate Jesus’ finished work on the cross and unfinished work in our lives!

## SERMON NOTES

Galatians 5:16-26

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.