

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Unit III: Liberating Letters

Choosing Well: Galatians 5:16-26

Key Verse: Galatians 5:25

Introduction:

The author of Galatians is Paul, who wrote a number, of books in the New Testament. In this book, Paul teaches us that believers are, justified by Jesus alone.

Spirit Freed (Galatians 5: 16-18)

In this lesson, the Scriptures give us simple instructions, “Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” (Galatians 5:16 NIV)

By simply walking in the Spirit, we are able, to stand up against the temptations of the world. That is easier said than done. We battle daily between our old nature (before Christ found us) and our new nature (after Christ found us).

So how do we deal with these daily obstacles? We must submit to the Holy Spirit and allow him to lead us. Our flesh automatically wants to do the opposite of what the Holy Spirit wants us to do, so it is imperative that we follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. We must rely on HIM.

Does grace cancel the need to follow God’s commandments?

Spirit Fruit (Galatians 5: 19-23)

Paul begins by listing the “acts of the flesh” or sin. To be very honest, I feel like we all know what sin is. But God knows his people, so He explicitly gives a list of things not to do to cut down on any potential confusion.

Paul lists:

1. sensual sin (sexual)
2. religious sin (idolatry, witchcraft)
3. temperamental sin (hatred, envying, murder)
4. acts of excess (drunkenness)

Paul reminds us that living in sin will cause us to not “inherit the Kingdom of God.”

Paul then goes on to contrast these sins with spiritual fruit.

The Fruit of the Spirit is:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Longsuffering (patience)
5. Gentleness
6. Goodness
7. Faith
8. Meekness
9. Temperance (self control)

Christ has freed us to live, empowered by His Spirit, and the Spirit is, represented through his fruit. Having the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives as believers gives us the power to conquer the struggle and torment of the law.

Spirit Footpath (Galatians 5: 24-26)

Paul is teaching us that we must use/consume the Fruit of the Spirit daily to have a closer or better walk with HIM. The path we walk should align with the Spirit of God. This can only be, done by crucifying, our fleshly desires.

A consistent walk with the Lord consists of:

1. Prayer
2. Worship
3. Obedience to the Scriptures
4. Resisting temptation

Our walk with Christ should be a humble one. There is no need in becoming so bold or conceited in our walk with Christ, that we turn others away from His salvation. Conceit can diminish our spiritual impact and cause others to not want to come to Christ.

In closing, Paul is teaching us that just because we are Christians, we are not exempt from the temptations or distractions of this world. To please God, we must all make a conscious effort to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us and guide us daily.