

June 22 & 25, 2023



## **One Another – Week #10**

### **How to Ruin the Fourth**

Galatians 5:13-26 (NIV)

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>15</sup> If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. <sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other

## **How to ruin the Fourth:**

### **1. Act like animals!**

Galatians 5:15 (NIV)

If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

- When we devour one another with our words we are doing the enemies work for him.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

- When we attack each other with our words we are, in essence, attacking ourselves.
- We devour each other through slander, gossip, and criticism!

### **2. Use clean cups and dirty pitchers!**

- We will continue to devour one another if we keep focusing on the symptoms not the source.

James 3:7:8 (NIV)

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

James 3:14 (NIV)

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.

Luke 6:45 (NIV)

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

- Focusing on our speech leaves us unchanged but allowing God to reveal your heart will bring lasting change!

Psalm 15:1-3 (NIV)

Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live on your holy mountain? <sup>2</sup>The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; <sup>3</sup>whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others;

### **3. Cut the power!**

Galatians 5:16 (NIV)

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Ephesians 4:29-30 (NIV)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- With our words we have to decide between grace or grief!
- May my words give grace to those who hear and not grieve the Holy Spirit who dwells in me!

James 1:26 (NIV)

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless.

- If we keep devouring one another we will have relational train wrecks personally, and the kingdom of God will be damaged spiritually.