

Leaders:

1. Please read the email sent last Friday about the upcoming SG Leaders informational meeting, and RSVP to attend either September 2 or 9. Any questions, email Pastor Chris.
2. Men, please make mention of the upcoming men's retreat! September 7-8 at Wolf Mountain. Registration is online or at church August 12, 19, or 26.

LEARN

Read Galatians 5:13-18. What stands out in the text and what was encouraging/challenging from the sermon?

How would you explain Christian freedom to someone from these verses?

(Freedom from sin, not to sin / freedom for service, not for selfishness / freedom to obey, not to disobey.)

Why is it so important that we rightly understand what true Christian freedom is? What are the pitfalls we get into when freedom is misunderstood or isn't exercised appropriately?

(Examples: Christians can use "freedom" as a way to legitimize sin. Or we can live as slaves to a new kind of "law" and be legalists, unaware of the freedom Christ purchased for us.)

PRACTICE

What are the desires of the flesh? How does a Christian identify them in his or her heart?

("Desires" are over-desires or inordinate desires. Sinful sexual desire is included but by no means the sum of this idea. It can be desires for good things that take over our life and become "god things", ending up out of place and leading someone to not follow the Holy Spirit.)

How does verse 16-18 help you understand the war against sin in your life and the way to victory?

(First, acknowledge there is a war *inside of us*. The conflict and desire to obey God is a witness to the Spirit indwelling me. Victory is in submitting to the Word by the Holy Spirit, pursuing the desires for love and Christ-likeness that the Spirit creates in a believer.)

Think of an example in your life of defeating sin and/or not gratifying the desires of your flesh. Share how you gained victory as a way to encourage one another to put these truths into practice.

CHANGE

Where are you especially susceptible to gratifying the desires of your flesh? How will you commit to walking by the Spirit to overcome those sinful desires between now and the next small group meeting?

(Leaders: Writing down concrete examples and answers is a great way to make sure and follow up during your next meeting!)