



NORTHEAST

MESSAGE NOTES

July 16, 2017

Summer Lovin' - Part 1

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Galatians 5:1, 13-26 (NLT)

So Christ has truly set us free.

¹³ *For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.*

¹⁴ *For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.*

¹⁶ *So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.*

¹⁹ *When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*

²² *But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*

²⁴ *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.*

²⁵ *Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another,*

or be jealous of one another.

Key question:

How can we keep "Summer Lovin'" alive in all seasons of our marriage over a lifetime?

Prayer for our marriage:

Our Father, before we got married, we wanted to believe that our love for each other would automatically enable us to live together happily and compatibly. We now realize that our life together can only be as good and as happy as our ongoing "summer lovin'" makes it—that while you are the Author of marriage, we are the architects of our relationship. And we're so grateful for your Spirit who now empowers us in the course of our lives, which can still be demanding and challenging, yet rewarding and pleasurable.

Help us whenever we fall short, when we sometimes display our worst selves to one another out of selfishness, anger or resentment. May you help us to forgive and then truly express love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—that fruit we so need in our lives but can't produce in our own efforts.

Please remind us that success in our covenant of marriage is not just an accident or a matter of luck. But it's something that's achieved intentionally through much understanding, a lot of accepting, a lot of overlooking, and a whole lot of love.

May we continually be filled with your Spirit, so as to glorify your name and bless one another in our marriages, families and our lives. For Jesus' sake, Amen.