

**2016: Week 27**

Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016

*"Walk by the Spirit"*

**Galatians 5:16**

<sup>16</sup>But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." (NASB)

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On Sunday we resumed our church-wide study in the Book of Galatians. In this particular section we notice Paul's emphasis on walking, or living, by the Spirit as opposed to the flesh. At the moment a person places saving faith in Christ, he or she is given a new nature. Consider 2 Corinthians 5:17, which states, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." The believer has hope for a new way of living within a new nature—being influenced, directed, and led *by the Holy Spirit*. However, this new way of living doesn't just automatically occur as every believer still lives in the same old body ("the flesh") that is corrupted by sin. Hence, we find ourselves in the predicament of either walking by the Spirit or walking according to the flesh. Let's see how this week's passage might lead us towards living a new way under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

**1. READ Galatians 5:13–15**

- What is the *freedom* Paul is talking about in v. 13? How might a good thing like freedom actually be taken too far and lead a person towards sin?
- Like God has revealed in so many other places in Scripture Paul challenges the believer to *love* other people (see the end of v. 13 and v.14)? *Why* is it so difficult to genuinely love another person sacrificially and unselfishly?
- In v.15 Paul identifies a problem in the Galatian churches: "biting and devouring" one another.  
How do believers "bite and devour" one another today?

What can you do to stop doing this yourself?

What can you do to prevent other believers from doing this?

**2. READ Galatians 5:16–26**

- In v. 17 Paul states, "the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh." What does that mean?
- There are various "deeds of the flesh" that Paul lists out in v.19–21.  
Which one are you battling with the most right now?

Who can you talk to this week that can provide support and accountability in battling with this sin?

- The famous "fruit of the Spirit" verses are found in v.23–24. What might be surprising is that you don't get to pick and choose different fruits of the Spirit. The believer depending on the Lord should be demonstrating all of these qualities: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*. It would be incorrect to say, "I will demonstrate the Spirit's peace in my life, but I don't want to demonstrate kindness. I'll let some other Christian do that." The Spirit desires to lead every believer and towards such fruit.

Which fruit of the Spirit can you readily identify in your life today?

Which fruit is difficult to find?

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Pray for the Lord to continue to grow you as a believer who loves and serves others under the power of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Lord to help you yield to His Spirit, so that He may have complete control over your heart.