

Galatians - Fruit of the Spirit

Message by Pastor Clay, The Naz

Week 10 - November 23rd, 2025

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Summary

We continue our series this week in Galatians 5, focusing on the spiritual battle between the flesh and the Spirit within every Christian. While Christians have freedom in Christ, we are constantly at war internally between our sinful nature (flesh) and the Holy Spirit. Paul provides a diagnostic tool to assess which is leading our lives by listing the acts of the flesh versus the fruit of the Spirit. The flesh attacks three key areas: sexual practices, worship, and relationships, leading to obvious destructive behaviors. In contrast, the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The key is to abide in Christ and walk by the Spirit, cultivating spiritual growth while actively killing sin in our lives.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together to study Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us today. Help us to be honest about the areas where we struggle and receptive to the work of Your Holy Spirit in our lives. We pray that through our discussion, You would draw us closer to You and to one another. Give us wisdom, understanding, and the courage to apply what we learn. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's one hobby or activity that you find yourself spending a lot of time thinking about or planning for during the week?

Key Verses

- Galatians 5:17-23
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3-3
- 1 Corinthians 6:13-20
- Ephesians 5:8, 11
- John 15:5
- Romans 13:14
- Nehemiah 8:10

Questions

1. Pastor Clay mentioned that the flesh and Spirit are in constant conflict within us. How do you recognize this battle in your own daily life? (Eph 5:8, 11)
2. Looking at the three areas that flesh attacks (sexual practices, worship, and relationships), which one do you find most challenging to surrender to God's design?
3. You bear fruit where you abide or remain. What does it practically look like to abide in Christ versus abiding in the flesh? (John 15:5)
4. How does our culture's view of sexuality differ from God's design, and why do you think God's boundaries around sex are actually protective rather than restrictive?
5. "A good thing becomes a bad thing when it becomes a ruling thing." -Paul Tripp. What are some modern forms of idolatry that we might not recognize as such? How can good things become 'ruling things' in our lives?
6. When you look at the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control), which ones do you see growing in your life and which ones need more cultivation?
7. What does it mean to 'cultivate the Spirit and kill sin' in practical, everyday terms? (Rom 13:14)

Life Application

This week, identify one specific area where you've been following the flesh rather than the Spirit. Choose one practical step you can avoid creating opportunities or excuses for sinful behaviors in an area of your life while also cultivating your relationship with God through prayer or Scripture reading. Share this commitment with someone who can encourage and pray for you.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the reminder that we don't have to fight this battle in our own strength. We confess the areas where we've been walking in the flesh rather than by Your Spirit. Help us to abide in You more deeply this week, trusting in Your grace and power to transform us from the inside out. May the fruit of Your Spirit be evident in our lives as we surrender more fully to Your lordship. Strengthen us all to walk in the freedom You've provided. In Your precious name, Amen.