

LIVE AND BEAR FRUIT BY THE SPIRIT!

Gal. 5:16-26 (vv. 16, 22-25)

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I. Historical Background

Paul's full teaching concerning the Gentiles' knowledge or lack of the knowledge of God is also in Romans 1:18-23. It may be summed up by saying the Gentiles were capable of knowing about God in two respects-his existence and his power (Rom 1:20)-but not knowing him personally. Moreover, what they did not know was distorted, so that they ended up by worshiping the creature rather than the Creator. For this they are held accountable and are judged. Paul regarded the thesis of Galatians-salvation by the grace of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, as indispensable for genuine freedom and necessary for a Christian life and conduct.

II. Biblical Context

The Galatians had once had an attitude toward Paul, but their opinion of him had changed. The joy they once had toward him had vanished and now they are regarding him as their enemy. In our lesson last week, they have turned on him. Why is he now their enemy. Unfortunately, when folks hear the truth, they become offensive! Their past and present relationships are now changing. The issues he faced them with are doctrinal ones, and it looks like they are no longer "brothers" (1:11, 3:15). This term is used in the Christian community. Paul is now intensifying his appeal to the believers. Once again, he is addressing them as "brothers" and "dear children. It's like a past and present relationship in contrast because of their present actions. He was trying his best to be pastoral and correcting them gently. Ministers/believers should not be received and evaluated on the basis of their personal appearance, intellectual attainments, or winsome manner, but as to whether or not they are indeed God's messengers bearing the word

of Christ. If they are, the message is to be received and acted upon, whether it appeals to a particular congregation or not. The change is internal. So it is from within rather than without that the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit.

III. The Lesson: “Live and Bear Fruit by the Spirit”

Practical doctrines (5:16-6:18) The secret of victory over sin

- Stand fast (KJV) in the liberty/freedom of the gospel (1-3)
- Maintain justification in grace and obey the truth (4-15)
- Walk in the Spirit (16-17)
- Be led by the Spirit (18)
- Crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts (19-21, 24)
- Demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in daily life (22-23)
- Live in the Spirit (25-26)

1. **Verse 16. Live by the Spirit**

So, then, Walk by the Spirit; live by the Spirit. Then you will not do what your human nature want. You must be fully motivated by the Spirit. The flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law; you cannot do just what you please. When Christians follow their sinful desires, they begin to criticize and contend with one another (v. 13, 15). Those who criticize and attack usually end up being consumed in worthless struggles. The only consistent way to overcome the sinful desires of our human nature (the flesh) is to live step-by-step in the power of the Holy Spirit as He works through our spirit.

2. **Verse 17. The legalizers actions:** their zeal and their motives.

Zeal itself is not bad. Paul had zeal as he worked among them and encouraged them to have zeal. If zeal is placed at the service of

Christ, it is a fine characteristic. In the case of them, though, this zeal was misdirected. It was a zeal for their own cause and for their own glorification, and it had the side effect of alienating them from Apostle Paul and Christ. Zeal has two meanings, one means “to envy”. It can also mean “to be deeply concerned for someone to the point of courting their favor.” For example, “godly jealousy (2 Cor. 11:2) ...jealously to save you as a pure person to God. But the legalizers wanted to lock you up as a function of the “law”. This meant they want to lock certain people up so they can be separated from Christ and serve their teachers! When you are courted and estranged from Paul and Christ, then the roles will be reversed, and you find yourself being “courted” for the wrong reason. Failure to maintain your liberty or freedom in Christ leads to another form of bondage!

3. **Verse 18**. **The Work of the Flesh is Evident.**

It is obvious; what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time; the works of the flesh are evident. The potential of the flesh includes but go well beyond the destructive contentions and jealousies. Where there is such behavior, it is positive proof that the person is not living in the power of the Holy Spirit but is being energized by Satan.

- ✓ If it's the legalizers: is this zeal for a good cause
- ✓ Prior to this Paul had zeal for the wrong reason
- ✓ Now, presently, the same zeal is for the right reason

4. **Verse 19**.

In keeping the main thing, the main thing, what is the actions and the motives. Paul is not coming to them now as if he wanted a personal following, as the false teachers were. He has come to help them; first to see that they were born again, and second, to labor for them till Christ himself should be formed in them. The labor pains are on their behalf, picturing himself as going through the pains of childbirth at the time of their conversion to Christ and who is apparently in labor once again as the result of their apparent

defection. The point is this, as a pastoral concern it matches his evangelistic fervor, and neither is being diminished.

5. **Verses 20-21. Check List of Sinful Nature**

Lists the particulars of conduct; a checklist. These acts of the flesh are of the sinful nature: sexual sins, then idolatry, worship of the creature instead of the Creator; and social offenses, and last alcohol. Stop continually and persistently living these immoral acts. There is a standard of morality!

6. **Verses 22-26. The Proof of Spiritual Life**

Proofs of a spiritual life (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom 6:6-23; 8:1-13; 1 Jn. 2:29; 3:5-10; 5:1-5, 18)

- ✓ Flesh is crucified by Christ with the affections and lusts
- ✓ Live in the Spirit; focus on godly things.
- ✓ Walk in the Spirit -obey the promptness of the Holy Spirit
- ✓ Developing a willingness to stick with things, committed, empowered to direct your energies wisely

Gal. 5: 19-21(Mk. 7-21-23; Rom. 1:29; 1 Cor. 6:9)

Manifestations of fleshy life; sins that damn the soul

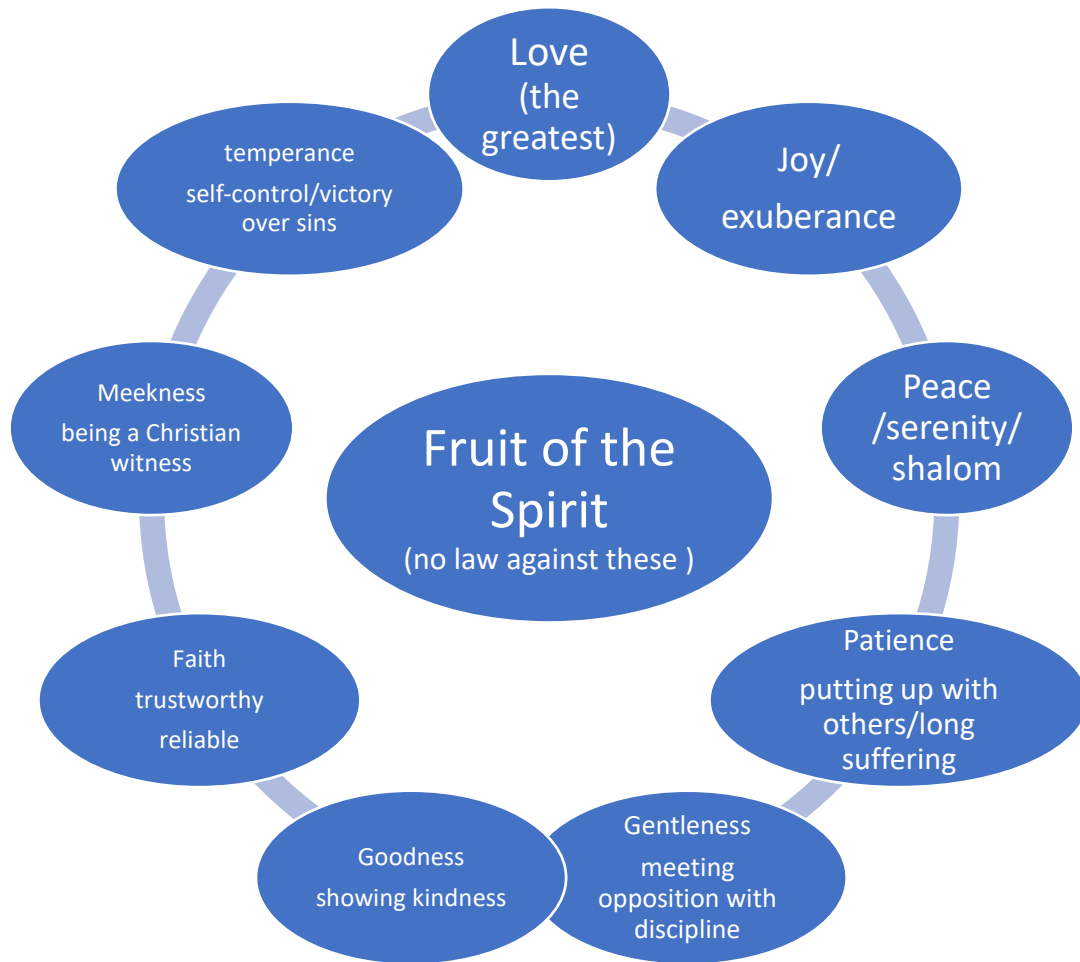


4 divisions of these sins:

- 1. 4 sins of lust -sexual sins(v 19)**
- 2. 2 sins of impiety and superstition-idolatry/witchcraft (v 20)**
- 3. 9 sins of temper-social sins (v. 20-21)**
- 4. 2 sins of appetite-rivalry/ (21)**

Gal. 5:22-25

Manifestations of a spiritual life; Fruit of the Spirit (1 Cor. 13; Eph. 5:9; Phil. 4:8)



IV. Conclusion

All the above fruit-bearing qualities are all claimed by Jesus Christ and is Spirit-led. Law is given to restrain evil, but these fruits never need to be restrained. There is a warfare between the flesh and the Spirit. How then is victory attained: Come to Christ, **repent (be born again); confess; turn/change; restore, forgive--** fully of the former life. Life lingers; but Christ crucified sins for all as believers. Walk and live in the steps of the faithful. Walking by the Spirit is the ultimate solution to such evils. So, live and bear fruit by the Spirit. Almighty God is the only one who can do this, be restored to favor to God, YOU can be redeemed. You are invited today!