

sermon notes

FREEDOM

Part 6: Living by The Spirit

FLESH VS. SPIRIT

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.””

Galatians 5:1-9 NIV

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and

the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:13-21 NIV

“I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.”

Romans 7:19 NLT

The flesh produces:

The Spirit produces:

Bondage

Doubt

Religion

Legalism

LIVING BY THE SPIRIT

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

Galatians 5:22-26 NIV

1. *It requires me to* _____.

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

Psalms 119:105 NIV

2. *It requires me to* _____.

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.””

Isaiah 30:21 NIV

3. *It requires me to* _____.

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”

James 1:22 NIV

I am never _____.

The Spirit is _____ with me.

Consider

In Chapter 5 of Galatians, Paul continues to encourage the Galatians to embrace the freedom of the New Covenant and not allow themselves to become burdened again by the law. But rather than using that freedom to indulge in their flesh, which would ultimately lead them back to living by the law, Paul teaches that they should 'walk by the Spirit.' You can know whether you are living in your flesh or in the Spirit by looking at the fruit your life is producing. The flesh produces bondage, doubt, religion and legalism. But the Spirit produces freedom, faith, relationship and grace. Now, walking in the Spirit requires a few things of us. We must see where we are going with the help of the light of God's Word. We must listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, who is always speaking to us. And we must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Life with the Spirit is a life of freedom that bears incredible fruit, and it is a life that we never have to live alone. The Spirit is always with us.

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Galatians 5

- When were some times in your life that you followed the leading of the Holy Spirit rather than walking in the flesh? Think about the difference between walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit.
- When, recently, have you felt the Holy Spirit leading you? What positive fruit has been produced by following that leading?
- Consider the action step (see, listen, follow) that spoke to you the most. In what ways can you see, listen and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit this week?

