



Week 12: Galatians 5:16-26

GOSPEL FRUIT

The natural question arises: if faith is the cornerstone of the gospel, how do we live by it? Anticipating this, Paul offers a clear answer: it's only through the Holy Spirit's power that we can walk in righteousness. On our own, we'd succumb to self-serving desires. But trusting in Christ, our lives will bear incredible fruit, glorifying God in the process.

THE SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 5:16-26

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things^v will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

¹ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. ^v **those who do such things** – the sense behind this verb is of ongoing habitual action.

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 12

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. How do you know that someone is an American citizen?
2. How do you know that someone is a Christian?

DIVING DEEPER

3. After thus far explaining how Christians can lose the freedom offered by the Gospel and the consequences of this distortion, Paul shifts focus. This week's passage reveals the key ingredient for holding fast to the true and authentic Gospel. What is it?
4. For some Christians the Holy Spirit is the vaguest member of the Trinity. For others he is vital to their experience in Christ. How do you see the Holy Spirit and his involvement with your spiritual life?
5. Throughout this week's passage, Paul emphasizes specific terms to make his point clear. Underline or circle the words "Spirit," "flesh," and "desires" in the text.
6. Paul puts the flesh in opposition to the Spirit in verse 17. What is "the flesh"? Although it's a lengthier portion of Scripture, in Romans 6-8 Paul extensively discusses this conflict.

7. Based on this week's text, what challenges does Paul say we can overcome by walking in the Spirit?

Verses

Walking in the Spirit helps us...

16-17

18

19-24

8. While we all possess a "fleshly nature," it might not always be outwardly apparent. According to Paul, how does this nature manifest itself in our lives?
9. In verse 21, Paul warns "those who do such things." However, the original Greek verb emphasizes habitual practice, not a one-time mistake. Why is this distinction between ongoing behavior and isolated lapses significant?
10. In verses 22 and 23, Paul introduces the concept of "the fruit of the Spirit." What is the significance of using the term "fruit" in contrast to the "works" of the flesh mentioned earlier?
11. Following his list of the Spirit's fruit, Paul presents a challenge in verse 26: "Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another." Why do you think Paul includes this specific challenge in this context? How does it fit with the broader message about living according to the Spirit?
12. Consider the "works of the flesh" listed in Galatians 5:19-21. Are there any of these tendencies you find yourself struggling with more than others?
13. Which of the "Fruit of the Spirit" do you chronically lack and which have you sensed in yourself or have been told that others see in you?