

GALATIANS 5:13-26

November 17, 2019

TODAY'S TEXT—open your Bible, use a Bible app on your phone, or follow along below

Text: GALATIANS 5:13-26

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. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. ¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ 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[c] you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ 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. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

FIRST THOUGHTS

- What's your favorite fruit? Has it always been the same? What's your least favorite fruit? Why?

EXPLORE THE TEXT

FREED TO LOVE

> Read Galatians 5:13-15

- How might people use the freedom of the gospel to justify sin? What is wrong with this type of thinking?
- How do we love ourselves? How does this love look when applied to our neighbors?
- How do we "bite and devour" others in the church? These kinds of hurts have been the reason many have left church. How do you move on from hurts you receive from other Christians?
- How does the gospel give us the power and strength to live out this sometimes difficult command?

WALKING BY THE SPIRIT

> Read Galatians 5:16-18

- How is walking an appropriate metaphor to use for living day-to-day as a Christian?
- What is the difference between the desire of the flesh and of the Spirit?
- How can we overcome the desires of the flesh?

ACTS OF THE FLESH

> Read Galatians 5:19-21

- What stands out to you about the list in verses 19-21?
- What point could Paul be making by laying out a specific list of sins? How do you think this list would compare to the list of sins the Judaizers would present?

FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

> Read Galatians 5:22-26

- How is this list different from the previous one? What is the implication of the singular "fruit of the Spirit" vs. the plural "works of the flesh"?
- Look at the items on this list. Which one do you think you have the least understanding of? Why?
- What are some ways you have seen the Holy Spirit produce fruit in your life? Is there one on this list that you feel He is really developing in your life right now?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

How can we encourage others when we see the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives?

Personal Challenge: Consider how you will respond when you find yourself desiring things of the flesh instead of those of the Spirit. The Spirit at work in you will give you the power to overcome sinful desires and to follow Christ. Thank God when you see the fruit of the Spirit in your life, and confess your sins when you see the desires of the flesh in your life.

Pray: Ask God to increase the fruit in your life. Ask Him to help you weed out the old acts of the flesh and replace them with the fruit of the Spirit.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- Read Galatians 6:1-15.
- Who am I comparing my life to? Why is comparison so important to use as humans? How does it affect us spiritually?

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

17th – 2 Corinthians 7-10 | **18th** – Psalm 124; 2 Corinthians 11-13 | **19th** – Matthew 1-4 | **20th** – Matthew 5-7 | **21st** – Matthew 8-10 | **22nd** – Matthew 11-13 | **23rd** – Matthew 14-16

Our Mission:

TO KNOW GOD AND BE
CHANGED BY HIM IN A
WAY THAT WILL CHANGE
THE WORLD.

Our Vision:

TO BE A CHURCH FOR
THE UNCHURCHED,
HERE AND AROUND
THE WORLD.

Adult LifeGroups:

INVITE AND INVEST IN
THOSE WITHOUT CHRIST.
CREATE COMMUNITY.
MAKE DISCIPLES.