

PASSAGE – Galatians 5:15-26

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. ¹⁷For 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. 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 debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissension, 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.

OUTLINE:

In these verses, Paul shows what it looks like to live in the freedom of Christ's salvation. These are listed in the fruit of the spirit. Understand that he says fruit (singular) of the spirit so this isn't some kind of pick and choose. When we live in our Christian freedom, we live by faith through the Spirit in hope with love and it keeps us from engaging in the fruit of our flesh listed in the earlier verses.

START (the group):

Icebreaker Question: How would you spend 1 million dollars?

Follow up with your group regarding their applications from last week. Ask them how they did in applying last week's text.

STUDY (the passage):

Have everyone look back over the text. (Encourage everyone to be looking for something that sticks out to them, something they have a question about, and something God may be telling them to do.)

Ask questions about the text:

1. What sticks out to you from the passage? (Everyone answer)
2. What questions do you have from the text?
3. What does Paul indicate that Christians are called to?
4. How do these verses indicate that Christian freedom should manifest itself?
5. How does it make you feel that freedom is more about others than ourselves?
6. What is your idea of a "good Christian?" Why do we think that the power to live obediently to Christ is mere determination to do so?
7. Invite a volunteer to read Romans 8:3-4. How do believers actually live out Christ's commands?
8. How can we turn the "fruit of the Spirit" into legalism? How can we avoid this?

APPLY:

9. What is one thing God is asking you to do in response to this passage? (One measurable goal)
10. What does a life transformed by the Spirit look like?
11. How can we not be a slave to our sinful nature? What is a practical step you can take?
12. The word "slave" most often has a negative connotation to it especially in reference to sin. Historically, however, some slaves are described as 'devoted' to a good master. As Christians called to be a slave to Christ, does this change your perspective? If so, how?

PRAY AS A GROUP