

“Walk by the Spirit” Galatians 5:16-25

1. What principles or observations from Galatians 5:1-15 and Pastor Jason’s message did you find to be helpful or insightful?

2. Paul tells the Galatian believers in Galatians 5:16 to **walk by the Spirit** in order to not carry out the desire of the flesh. The word for walk is the verb form of the Greek word *peripateo* and it literally means “keep on walking”. We must keep taking each step of our Christian life in dependence upon on the Spirit to have victory over the flesh. Will the believer ever be entirely free in this life from the evil desires that stem from our fallen human nature? If not, when? Talk about this.

3. Paul next explained in verse 17 the need for a life that is controlled and energized by the Holy Spirit. A Christian has two natures, a sinful one received at birth (inherited from fallen Adam) and a new nature when a person comes to Christ in faith. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. The natures are in conflict with each other. Which nature will win? The one that we feed. How can we intentionally feed our new nature?

4. Paul emphasizes in verse 18 that a godly life is not lived under the rules of the Law but is a life led by the Spirit. Just as our justification is not possible by works so sanctification cannot be achieved by human efforts. In both cases, faith is necessary—faith in Christ to save us and faith in the Holy Spirit to sanctify us. Paul then lists the deeds of the flesh in verses 19-21 and as verse 16 indicated, there is no need for a follower of Christ to display the works of the flesh. Rather, by the power of the Spirit indwelling him, he can manifest the nine graces listed in verses 22-23. List them below.

The fruit described here is not produced by the believer, but by the Holy Spirit working through a believer who is in vital union with Christ (see John 15:1-8). The word “fruit” is singular, indicating that these qualities constitute a unity, all of which should be found in a believer who lives under the control of the Spirit. “Fruit” is simply the life of Christ lived out in a believer. Which one or two of these fruit does God need to further mature and develop in your life?

5. Paul next explained that believers need not be responsive to the sinful nature because they have crucified it. When we come to Christ by faith, we become identified with Jesus in His death and resurrection. This does not mean that our sin nature has been eradicated but victory over the sinful nature’s passions and desires has been provided by Christ in His death. We are now exhorted to keep in step with the Spirit and conform to the Spirit’s direction in our lives. How can we live in a greater sense of dependence upon the Spirit and less on our own flesh?