

Main Series Idea:

What does it mean to live a life in the spirit? How do we do it? And more importantly, why should we do it?

Galatians 5: 19-26

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 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.

Questions That Need Answers:

1. How do we measure transformation
 2. Is the goal sinlessness?
 3. What is the way forward?
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Intro

What is one of the biggest industries in the world right now?? Self-improvement. Its actually a 50 billion dollar business.

Why is it so hard to apprentice under Jesus?

It's never been easier to get better, while shockingly never been harder to be a follower of The Way of Jesus... now how can that be?

Churches are on every corner, bible and prayer apps on our phone, churches have their own apps, we have bible studies, christian book stores, youtube christian influencers, you name it... yet it seems we have never been further apart from living The Way of Jesus then ever before.

Well one answer is this, we have created a world of ease, which creates a people of wrong motivation.

You see the great concern of great comfort, is a greater obsession with myself.

For tonight, we need to ask ourselves this question...

How do I measure a life of walking in the spirit.

You see, we have said this often, but the goal of the Christian life is to "become like Jesus" and as I taught last week, that is impossible without living live with The Holy Spirit.

Now what us Pastors can be guilty of is, of course that sounds great, but how do measure that, how do I measure transformation.

You see we have made a grave error in the past 100 years in our measurement for change, because what we have done is said this...

“I’ll know I’m seeing transformation, when I sin less.”

Then what we do is couple that with personal self-improvement....

So what ends up happening is, we spend every day measuring two things, am I reaching my personal goals and am I sinning less.

Here is the thing about that mixture... neither of them are the way Christians were designed to measure themselves.

What is the correct measuring stick?

"Transformation from a spirit empowered life, is measured by the fruit of spirit in your life."

Galatians 5: 22-26

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These are the attributes of becoming like Christ... these are the markers we measure and look for.

But see measuring ourselves as people of love, for the most part has been thrown out the window... because in all honesty, it's not self-serving enough.

A correct goal

The goal was always meant to become a person of love. To walk hand in hand with the Holy Spirit in everyday life, as it slowly formers the layers of your thinking, acting, and believing, into a person who is loving, joyful peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlling.

Be Love, we are still being bought with the spiritual formation of the world, that the goal in life is you, you, you, you, and you. But the fruit of the spirit, formation into becoming like Christ, is actually about orienting yourself towards others, and towards Christ himself.

How do we move forward?

The answer isn't that hard... we throw out the old measuring sticks, we put our personal goals in the correct order of importance, and we do what Paul says in Galatians 5, we live by The Holy Spirit, in step with The Holy Spirit.

Thats your way forward. The Holy Spirit and you.

Love "feels no burden, thinks nothing of trouble, attempts what is above its strength."

- Thomas à Kempis
