

Sermon #12: Galatians 5:16-26

April 26, 2026

BREAKING THE ICE

Describe a time when you felt an internal “tug-of-war” between doing what you wanted to do and what you knew God wanted you to do.

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage: Galatians 5:16-26

1. What command and promise are given in verse 16?
2. Describe the conflict presented in verse 17. Why do we not do what we want?
3. According to verse 18, what is the status of those led by the Spirit regarding the Law?
4. In verses 19-21, what general categories of sin are included in the “deeds of the flesh”?
List a few – which surprised or convicted you most?
5. What warning does Paul give in verse 21 regarding those who practice acts of sinful nature?
6. List the nine facets of the fruit of the Spirit in verses 22-23.
7. What does Paul say about the Law in relation to the fruit of the Spirit (v. 23)?
8. Read verse 24-25.
 - a. What have those who belong to Christ done to the flesh?
 - b. If we live by the Spirit, what must we also do?
9. What negative attitudes toward one another are forbidden in verse 26?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

The fruit of the Spirit is not a checklist to achieve – it is the character of Christ reproduced in us by His Spirit. Jesus Himself is the perfect embodiment of every quality listed: He is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with Him (v. 24) – our old self died with Him so that His life might grow in us. We don’t produce the fruit; we stay connected to the vine, Jesus Christ.

- How does seeing the fruit of the Spirit as a portrait of Jesus – rather than a list of qualities to achieve – change how you pursue to mirror the character of Jesus in your own life?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. Where do you feel the battle between flesh and Spirit most intensely right now – both personally and in our culture?
2. Look at the list in vv.22-23. Which aspect of the fruit of the Spirit is most lacking in your life, and which comes most naturally? What does the difference reveal about where you are relying on the Spirit versus yourself?
3. Verse 24 calls us to crucify the flesh; verse 25 calls us to walk in step with the Spirit. What is one thing you need to *put off* this week and one concrete way you will *keep in step* with the Spirit in its place?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” - 1 John 5:14-15 When we pray according to God’s will, it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these truths in our own strength, it becomes legalistic obedience. But when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational and glorifies Him.

- Take 2 minutes to honestly identify one “deed of the flesh” and one fruit of the Spirit you most need this week. In partners, confess and pray for one another – asking God to do what only He can do through His Spirit.
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