

"Life by the Spirit"

(Galatians 5:13-26)

1. Because of the gift of the cross, we are set free. (Galatians 5:13-16)

- a. We were called to be free from the law, but we are not to abuse this freedom.
- b. God cares more about us loving our neighbors than He does about us winning trivial arguments. (1 John 4:19, Romans 5:5)

2. We are called to walk by the Spirit and not our flesh. (Galatians 5:16-18)

- a. When we are walking with the Spirit, we do not give in to temptations.
- b. It is impossible to serve both the Spirit of God and our flesh. One will always lose. (Matthew 6:24)
- c. If we allow the Holy Spirit to lead our lives, we are not under the law, but under God's grace.

3. Living in deeds of the darkness is contrary to the Spirit of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)

- a. The acts of the flesh are obvious! (Hebrews 4:12-13)
- b. Those who live in darkness will not inherit the kingdom of God. (v.21)

- c. Paul is reminding them that the life of self-fulfillment and indulgence is one that leads them to destruction. But God has so much more for them. His Spirit is sufficient for all they need. (John 1:5)

4. When we keep in step with the Spirit, we produce fruit that honors God. (Galatians 5:22-26)

- a. When we are exemplifying the fruits of the Spirit, we are reflecting the heart of God, and in Christ Jesus, there is no condemnation. (Romans 8:1)
- b. "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (v.24) (1 John 1:9)
- c. We have a newness of life in the Spirit, and we are to continue to walk with Him.
- d. The Spirit-filled believer is not conceited but realizes that the Spirit of God is sufficient for them.

Questions for discussion and application:

1. Paul mentions several times in Galatians 5 that we are freed from the law through Christ. There is a natural tendency of the flesh to want to abuse that freedom, and in doing so we become slaves once again to the flesh. What is the purpose of the freedom that we have been given?
2. If you were to think back over this past week and ask the Lord to examine your heart, what would He find? Would He find you and I faithful in surrendering to His Spirit and producing the fruit of the Holy Spirit? What things do you need to give up to allow the Holy Spirit to be sufficient enough for you today?