

FREE AT LAST! THE MESSAGE OF GALATIANS
February 25, 2010

The Fruitful Gospel: Love – Galatians 5:16-26

- 5:16-18** **I. There is a war going on!**
:16-17b A. Two lifestyles are in conflict.
 “So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other... the flesh vs. the Spirit
- :17c** B. We cannot defeat the flesh.
 “...so that you do not do what you want.”
 cf. Rom. 7:15-24
- :18** C. The solution is given by God.
 “But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.”
 cf. Rom. 7:25-8:11; Eph. 1:13, 14; II Cor. 1:21, 22; Rom. 8:23
- :19-23** **II. The life of the flesh and the Spirit produce opposite results.**
:19-21 A. The works of the flesh are destructive.
 (for relationships, the soul, and eternal life)
 “The acts of the sinful nature are obvious...I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”
 cf. I Thess. 4:3-6; I Cor. 5:9-13; 6:9-11; II Cor. 12:20f; Rom. 13:13; 1:29-31; Col. 3:5-8; Eph 4:17-19; 5:3-5.
- :19** 1. Sexual behavior.
 • Sexual immorality - cf. I Thess. 4:3; I Cor. 6:18; Matt. 5:32; 19:9
 • Impurity
 • Debauchery
- :20a** 2. Religious behavior.
 • Idolatry - cf. I Cor. 10:14; Col. 3:5
 • Witchcraft - cf. Ex. 7:11; Rev. 9:21; 18:23; 21:8; 22:15
- :20b, 21a** 3. Relational behavior.
 • Hatred - cf. Matt. 5:44; Rom. 12:20
 • Discord - cf. I Cor. 1:11; 3:3
 • Jealousy - cf. Phil. 3:6; Rom. 10:2
 • Fits of rage - cf. II Cor. 12:20
 • Selfish ambition - cf. II Cor. 12:20; Phil. 2:3
 • Dissensions - cf. Rom. 16:17
 • Factions - cf. Tit. 3:10; II Pet. 2:1; I Cor. 11:19
 • Envy - Socrates: “The envious are pained by their friends’ successes.”
- :21b** 4. Drinking behavior.
 • Drunkenness - cf. I Thess. 5:7; Eph. 5:18
 • Orgies - cf. Rom. 13:13; I Pet. 4:3
 • and the like

:22, 23 B. The fruit of the Spirit is constructive.
(for relationships, the soul, and eternal life)

:5 1. It is singular.
“*But the fruit of the Spirit is...*”
cf. John 15:1-8

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

:23b 2. It is beyond the law.
“*Against such things there is no law.*”
cf. Rom. 8:1-17

:24-26 **III. We must take decisive action.**

:24 A. Crucify the flesh.
“The death of the flesh is the life of the Spirit.” - John Calvin

1. This is essential.
“*Those who belong to Christ...*”
“Whoever sees into the secret of Calvary... is conscious that the doom of sin is in it; to take it as real, and to stand in any real relation to it is death to the flesh with its passions and desires.” - James Denney

2. This is painful.
“*...have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.*”
“mortification”
cf. Mark 8:34; Lk. 9:23; 14:27
cp. Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:6

:25-26 B. Keep in step with the Spirit.
“*...let us keep in step with the Spirit.*”
“walk in line” – cf. Rom. 4:12; Gal. 6:16
“vivification” - cf. Gal. 5:16, 18; Rom. 8:5, 6; 13:14

1. Since we live by the Spirit.
“*Since we live by the Spirit...*”
2. So that we avoid division in the church.
“*Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*”
conceit → provoking and envying