

Defining Freedom in Christ

Lesson #18

Galatians 5:16-26

- Does anything stand out to you about what is on that list?

6. What is Paul's warning to those who choose to *"live like this?"* (Galatians 5:21b)

7. By contrast, Paul lists *"the fruit of the Spirit"* which is evident in the life of those *"led by the Spirit."* What is first on that list? (Galatians 5:22a)
 - Why do you think that tops the list?

8. What else did Paul include in *"the fruit of the Spirit?"* (Galatians 5:22, 23)
 - What stands out to you in this list?

9. Paul said there is no law against *"the fruit of the Spirit."* There are, however, laws against those listed *"acts of the sinful nature."* If one belongs to Christ Jesus and is *"no longer under the law"* (Galatians 3:25), what about the sinful nature? (Galatians 5:24)
 - Who did Paul say is responsible to do that? (Galatians 5:24)
 - How is that possible? (Galatians 5:16)

10. Paul assumes they will do so and tells them that they also must, *"Keep in step with the Spirit."* (Galatians 5:25) What comes to mind when you read that?

Reflect: Look at the two lists, evidence of the sinful nature and of the Spirit led nature.

In the first list (the sinful nature), is there something that you see that does not belong in your life? If so, confess it to Jesus and ask Him to take control and remove that area from your life.

In the second list (the fruit of the Spirit), is there an area you need some work on? If so, ask Jesus to guide and direct to increase this area of your life.

Whether it is an act of the sinful nature that needs removal or the fruit of the Spirit that needs more prominence, we cannot do it alone. It is only by the power of the Holy Spirit that either is possible.

11. To help gain clarity on this important teaching, turn to the Gospel of John and look at the words of Jesus on bearing fruit. Take a moment and read through John 15:1-7. In verse 4 Jesus said, *"No branch (believer) can bear fruit by itself."* What is required for a branch to bear fruit? (John 15:4)

- Why is that necessary? (John 15:5)

12. When Jesus said to, *"Remain in me,"* what was he referring to?

- John 15:7a
- John 15:9

Reflect: in practical terms, what do you think is required of the believer to "remain" or "abide" in Christ?

13. How did Paul end this section on freedom in Christ? (Galatians 5:26)