

INTRODUCTION.

- A. There are at least fourteen references to the Holy Spirit in Galatians. When we become a Christian, the Spirit comes to dwell within us (Ac. 2:38; Gal. 3:2). It is the Holy Spirit in the heart who gives assurance of salvation (Gal. 4:6).
- B. What God the Father planned for you, and God the Son purchased for you on the cross, God the Spirit personalizes for you and applies to your life as you yield to Him.

THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLES US...

...TO FULFILL THE LAW OF LOVE (Gal. 5:13-15).

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **14** For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." **15** But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

- A. We are prone to go to extremes. One believer interprets liberty as license and thinks he can do whatever he wants to do. Another believer, seeing his error, goes to the opposite extreme and imposes Law on everybody. Somewhere between license and legalism is true Christian liberty.
- B. So Paul begins by explaining our calling; we are called to liberty.
- C. The Christian is:
 - 1. Free from the guilt of sin.
 - 2. Free from the penalty of sin.
 - 3. Free from the power of sin.
- D. The amazing thing about love is that it takes the place of all the laws God ever gave. "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" solves every problem in human relations (see Rom. 13:8-14). If you love people (because you love Christ), you will not steal from them, lie about them, envy them, or try in any way to hurt them. Love in the heart is God's substitute for laws and threats.
- E. Apparently, the Galatian brethren were "biting and devouring one another" and were in danger of destroying one another (Gal. 5:15). The picture here is of wild animals attacking each other. This is proof in and of itself that law cannot force people to get along with each other.

...TO OVERCOME THE FLESH (Gal. 5:16-21,24).

A. **The conflict** (5:16-17).

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. **17** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

- 1. By "the flesh" Paul does not mean "the body." He is speaking of the carnal nature that is inside all of us.
 - 2. The flesh and the spirit may be illustrated as opposites in that the sheep is a clean animal who avoids garbage, while the pig is an unclean animal and enjoys wallowing in filth (2Pet. 2:19-22).
 - 3. Our old nature is like the pig, always looking for something unclean on which to feed. Our new nature is like the sheep, yearning for that which is clean and holy.
 - 4. Note that the Christian cannot simply will to overcome the flesh: "for these are in opposition to each other, so that you cannot do anything you please" (Gal. 5:17).
 - 5. See Rom. 7:15,19. In those verses Paul is not denying that there is victory. He is simply pointing out that we cannot win this victory in our own strength and by our own will.
- B. **The conquest** (5:18).
- But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

1. The solution is not to pit our will against the flesh, but to surrender our will to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit writes God's law on our hearts (Heb. 10:14-17; see 2Cor. 3) so that our desire will be to obey Christ in love.
2. Being "led of the Spirit" and "walking in the Spirit" are the opposites of yielding to the desires of the flesh.

C. **The crucifixion (5:19-21,24).**

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, **20** idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, **21** envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ... **24** Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

1. Here is the list of sins in 5:19-21 according to the NASB, NKJV, and the NIV...

	NASB	NKJV	NIV
a.	immorality	adultery	sexual immorality
b.	impurity	fornication	impurity
c.	sensuality	uncleanness, lewdness	debauchery
d.	idolatry	idolatry	idolatry
e.	sorcery	sorcery	witchcraft (also KJV)
f.	enmities	hatred	hatred
g.	strife	contentions (variance, KJV)	discord
h.	Jealousy	jealousies (emulations, KJV)	jealousy
i.	outbursts of anger	outbursts of wrath	fits of rage
j.	disputes	selfish ambitions (strife, KJV)	selfish ambition
k.	dissensions	dissensions (seditions, KJV)	dissensions
l.	factions	heresies	factions
m.	envying	envy, murders	envy
n.	drunkenness	drunkenness	drunkenness
o.	carousing	revelries	orgies
p.	and things like these	and the like	and the like

2. Paul now lists some of the ugly works of the flesh. This list can be divided into three categories:

a. The sensual sins (5:19,21b).

- 1) Adultery (sexual immorality) is illicit sex between married people.
- 2) Fornication (impurity) is illicit sex among unmarried people). Impurity. Lasciviousness, KJV.
- 3) Debauchery (lascivious) is a wanton appetite that knows no shame.
- 4) Drunkenness is being intoxicated to excess.
- 5) Carousing (revelries, orgies) is a wild party with excessive drinking and unrestrained sexual activity.

b. The superstitious sins (5:20a).

- 1) Idolatry is extreme admiration or reverence for something or someone.
- 2) Sorcery (witchcraft) is the practice of black magic, with the use of spells. The Greek here is *pharmakeia* which means the use of drugs.

c. The social sins (5:20b-21a).

- 1) Enmities (hatred) is being actively opposed or hostile to someone or something
- 2) Strife is the outworking of enmity; a bitter disagreement with conflict.
- 3) Jealousy is a strong desire or rivalry, which is a strong feeling for the same objective.
- 4) Outbursts of anger or wrath (a fit of rage) is an uncontrolled temper that is self-seeking. It can be violent and uncontrollable anger.
- 5) Disputes (selfish ambition) is to quarrel, an argument or debate for selfish goals.
- 6) Dissensions are disagreements that lead to discord; to dispute, to have conflict.

- 7) Factions (heresies) is to have a state of conflict by a small group within a larger group. A heresy is to hold a belief or opinion contrary to the orthodox view.
- 8) Envy is a feeling of discontent or resentment caused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck.
- d. Things like these (5:21) means that the list is not complete. Any behavior that resembles the things mentioned are to also be considered works of flesh and avoided. The penalty for practicing such things is not inheriting the kingdom of God.
3. Merriam-Webster says, "While many people believe that jealous means fearing someone will take what you have, and envious means desiring what someone else has, historical usage shows that both mean to be covetous.
4. So how does the believer handle the old nature? Two things:
 - a. The old nature must be crucified (Gal. 5:24).
 - 1) Go back and look at Gal. 2:20 again.
 - 2) Christians are no debtors to the flesh (Rom. 8:12).
 - b. Allow the Holy Spirit to be an "agent of death" to the carnal desires (Rom. 8:13).

...TO PRODUCE FRUIT (Gal. 5:22-23,25-26).

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.

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. **26** Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

- A. It is one thing to overcome the flesh and not do evil things, but quite something else to do good things.
- B. There is a difference between works and fruit. Works have to do with effort, labor, strain, and toil. Fruit, is the quiet outgrowth of character and usually is displayed with beauty, quietness and the unfolding of life.
- C. The New Testament speaks of different kinds of spiritual fruit:
 1. People won to Christ (Rom. 1:13).
 2. Holy living (Rom. 6:22).
 3. Gifts brought to God (Rom. 15:26-28).
 4. Good works (Col. 1:10).
 5. Praise (Heb. 13:15).
- D. Here is a list of the fruit(s) of the Spirit in Gal. 5:22-23 as found in the NASB, NKJV, and NIV:

	NASB	NKJV	NIV
1.	Love	love	love.
2.	Joy	joy	joy.
3.	Peace	peace	peace.
4.	Patience	longsuffering	forbearance.
5.	Kindness	kindness	kindness.
6.	Goodness	goodness	goodness.
7.	Faithfulness	faithfulness (faith, KJV)	faithfulness.
8.	Gentleness	gentleness (meekness, KJV)	gentleness.
9.	Self-control	self-control (temperance, KJV)	self-control.
- E. We can define each of these as follows:
 1. Love (Gk. *agape*) which is selfless love, doing the right thing to others.
 2. Joy is a feeling of good pleasure and happiness that is dependent on who Jesus is rather than who we are or what is happening around us.
 3. Peace is more than the absence of conflict, it is taking action to restore a broken situation.
 4. Patience (Gk. *makrothumia*; longsuffering, forbearance) is to endure over time. Long-suffering is to hold back anger. Forbearance is to refrain from the rightful enforcement of something, such as a debt.

5. Kindness is being selfless, compassionate, and merciful to others.
 6. Goodness is godliness, the state of being holy, pure, and righteous.
 7. Faithfulness (faith) is the fact of quality of being true to one's word or commitments; keeping promises.
 8. Gentleness (meekness) is showing care and respect for others by words and deeds. Gentleness is strength under control.
 9. Self-control (temperance) is a moderation of desire and pleasure which provides balance in the use of things.
- F. We must remember that fruit is produced *to be eaten*, not to be admired and put on display. We do not bear fruit for our own consumption; we bear fruit that others might be fed (helped) and that Christ might be glorified.
- G. The flesh may manufacture "results" that bring praise to us, but the flesh cannot bear fruit that brings glory to God.

NEXT LESSON.

The next lesson in this series (11-21), is from Gal. 6:1-10; Bear One Another's Burdens.