

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Galatians 5:13-26**.
- B. Last Sunday morning I mentioned that I did not have time to develop the concept of living a life after the Spirit. I want to do that this morning.

I. THE HS ENABLES US TO FULFILL THE LAW OF LOVE.

- A. See 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 lest you be consumed by one another.
- B. Paul begins by explaining our calling--we are called to liberty; freedom (Gal. 5:1).
It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.
 - 1. Free from the guilt of sin (due to receiving forgiveness).
 - 2. Free from the penalty of sin (due to receiving eternal life).
 - 3. Free from the power of sin (due to receiving the HS).
- C. We are prone to go to extremes:
 - 1. One person interprets liberty as license and thinks they can do whatever they want.
 - 2. Another person sees this error and imposes law or legalism on everyone.
 - 3. *Somewhere between license and legalism is true Christianity.*
- D. Walking after the Spirit (5:16) means that you no longer need law! (Rom. 13:8-10).
Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law. **9** For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." **10** Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law.
When you love your neighbor you will not steal from them, lie about them, envy them or in any way try to hurt them. You won't need all those laws, because you are practicing love unto them.
- E. Walking after the flesh results in biting, devouring, and consuming one another. Remember in the poem of "The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat":
*The truth about the cat and pup
Is this: they ate each other up!*

II. THE HS ENABLES US TO OVERCOME THE FLESH.

- A. See **Gal. 5:16-21, 24**.
- B. First, 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. The war is the sinful nature (flesh) versus the holy nature (Spirit).
 - 2. For example: the sheep is a clean animal and avoids garbage, while the pig is an unclean animal and enjoys wallowing in filth (2Pet. 2:19-22). 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.
 - 3. The Xian cannot simply will to overcome the flesh. See again 5:17.
 - 4. Paul spoke of this war in Rom. 7:15, 19. He does not deny that there is victory, but that we cannot win this victory in our own strength and by our own will.

C. Second, 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 HS.
2. By being in X, and willingly being led by the Spirit you will not carry out the deeds of the flesh.

D. Third, 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. Paul lists some of the works of the flesh. One author categorizes them in this way:
 - a. The sensual sins (adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, drunkenness, and reveling).
 - b. The superstitious sins (idolatry, witchcraft).
 - c. The social sins (hatred, jealousy, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, factions, envying, murder).
2. The only way to overcome these things is found in 5:24, to crucify the flesh and walk after the Spirit. We do not owe our fleshly nature anything, but we are in debt to the Spirit (Rom. 8:12-14).

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- **13** for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
3. The HS becomes an agent of death in not following the things of the flesh.

III. THE HS ENABLES US TO **PRODUCE FRUIT**.

A. See Gal. 5:22-23, 25-26.

(Gal 5:22-23) 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.

(Gal 5:25-26) 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.

- B. The legalist might argue that by the keeping of Law he/she had not committed the sins of the flesh. But there is more to it than that! They must go on from that point and do the things of the Spirit.
- C. Works involve labor, pain and toil. Fruit means that which grows and flows naturally. When we crucify the things of the flesh and live by the Spirit we will naturally produce fruit. The fruit is the by-product of doing the right things.
- D. And the fruit you produce is for other people, not yourself. When a tree produces fruit does it consume its own fruit or is it there for others to enjoy. So it should be when we begin producing the fruit of the Spirit--it will be there for others to enjoy.
- E. Too many people are looking for happiness and not finding it. They need to realize that happiness is a by-product of doing what is right (see 1Tim. 6:6). When you do the right thing according to the Spirit the following should happen:
1. You are not carrying out the deeds of the flesh.
 2. You are producing the fruit of the Spirit.
 3. You are giving others blessings they can use.
 4. You will then find a by-product for yourself--happiness.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

A. Walk after the Spirit:

1. And you can fulfill the Law of love.
2. And you can overcome the desires of the flesh.
3. And you can produce fruit.

B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.