

“Living by the Spirit”

Galatians 5:13-26

Introductory Question – Choose one

Q¹ – If people were told that the laws in their city were suspended for a month and they could do whatever they wanted, what affect do you think this would have on people? Why?

Q² – What motivates you to be a law-abiding citizen? What motivates you to bend or break the rules?

Discussion Questions

- 1) **Read Galatians 5:13-26.** What is the difference between the two concepts of freedom described in verses 13-14? How clear or confused do you think people in our culture are about what freedom is?
- 2) In verse 15 Paul accuses the Galatians of “biting and devouring each other.” Where do you see this happening among Christians today? What remedy does Paul give for how to respond when we see or experience this?
- 3) If we are made alive by the Spirit, why do we still struggle with sin? (see “Three tenses of salvation” chart)
- 4) What is the opposite of living by the Spirit? What distinguishes & determines each way of living?
- 5) How can Paul’s warning in verse 21 be reconciled with his emphasis on justification by faith? Can a person who lives according to the “acts of the sinful nature” (vv.19-21) be a true Christian?
- 6) Why or how is *fruit* a good description of the Spirit’s work in us (vv.22-23)? How can we work with the Spirit of God to weed out the deeds of the sinful nature and grow the fruit of the Spirit?
- 7) What is the main fruit(s) or change(s) the Spirit has produced in your life? How did it happen?
- 8) What does it mean to crucify the sinful nature?
- 9) Paul assumes that even though all Christians have the Spirit, we do not always “keep in step with the Spirit” (vv.25-26). In what ways do you struggle to keep in step with the Spirit?

The Three Tenses of “Salvation”

Past Tense: “*You have been saved*” (Ephesians 2:8)

From the **Penalty** of Sin **Justification**

Present Tense: “*You are being saved*” (1 Corinthians 1:18)

From the **Power** of Sin **Sanctification**

Future Tense: “*You will be saved*” (Romans 5:9)

From the **Presence** of Sin **Glorification**