

Every Step With The Spirit

Galatians 5:16-26
Stephanie Fehr | June 7

Galatians 5:16-26

- vv.16-18: Spirit vs. Flesh
- vv.19-21: the Flesh
- vv.22-26: the Spirit

vv.16-18: Spirit vs. Flesh

- v.16: "...walk by the Spirit..."
- Walking - Jewish metaphor, lifestyle
- Genesis 5:24: "Enoch walked faithfully with God"
- Micah 6:8: "...and to walk humbly with your God."
- Ephesians 5:2: "walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us"

vv.16-18: Spirit vs. Flesh

- v.18: "led by the Spirit"
- Life of the flesh: "contrary to the Spirit" (v.17)
- outside the realm of the Spirit of God and to live out of step with Jesus Christ
- v.17: "They are in conflict with each other"

vv.16-18: Spirit vs. Flesh

- v. 18, "if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law"

vv.19-21: Flesh; 22-26: Spirit

- Virtue and Vice lists: contrasting ideas, common teaching tool

vv.19-21: Flesh; 22-26: Spirit

Colossians 3:5-10:

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

vv.19-21: Flesh; 22-26: Spirit

Colossians 3:5-10:

8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

vv.19-21: Flesh; 22-26: Spirit

Colossians 3:12-14:

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

vv.19-21: Flesh; 22-26: Spirit

- "Acts/works of the flesh" vs. "Fruit of the Spirit"

vv.19-21: Flesh

- Fifteen different vices, bring out the worst in us
1. Disunity - ex: jealousy, fits of rage, hatred
 2. Personal - ex: drunkennes, debauchery
 3. Spiritual boundary crossing - ex: idolatry, witchcraft

vv.19-21: Flesh

19-21 It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition;

vv.19-21: Flesh

all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.

vv.19-21: Flesh

- v.21: inheritance
- if we live by the ways of the flesh, we are showing we have not accepted Christ, and therefore are not going to “inherit the kingdom of God”

vv.22-26: Spirit

- One syllable: love, joy, peace
- Two syllables: patience, kindness, goodness
- Three syllables: faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

vv.22-26: Spirit

- Love is first and most important
- 1 Corinthians 13:13: “And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”

vv.22-26: Spirit

- Metaphor of fruit:
 - There may be some things we can do (ex: water), but there are mysterious forces beyond our control
 - The Spirit *must* be at work

vv.22-26: Spirit

Matthew 7:15-20: 15 “Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. 16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

vv.22-26: Spirit

- v.23 (MSG): “Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way.”

Takeaways

- Live by the Spirit
- Confession