

November 27, 2011
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Galatians 5:22-26

“Walking By The Spirit, Part Four”

- I. The **Gospel** of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone **Defended** (1:1-2:21)
- II. The **Gospel** of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone **Explained** (3:1-4:31)
- III. The **Gospel** of Grace Alone Through Faith Alone in the Finished Work of Christ Alone **Applied** (5:1-6:18)
 - A. **Position** of Liberty: Stand Fast (5:1-12)
 - B. **Practice** of Liberty: Love One Another (5:13-15)
 - C. **Power** for Liberty: Walk in (by) the Spirit (5:16-26)
 - 1. Conflict between the Spirit and the Flesh (5:16-18)
 - 2. Works (deeds) of the Flesh (5:19-21)

3. Fruit of the Spirit (5:22-26)

a. **Pomology** – the scientific study and cultivation of fruit

- 1) Superabundance
- 2) Soil
- 3) Seed
- 4) Snip

b. **Product** – v. 22-23

- 1) Supernatural (“of the Spirit”)
- 2) Singular (“fruit”)
- 3) Sanctified (“no law”)

c. **Practice** – v. 24-25

- 1) Starting (“belong” / “have crucified”)

- 2) Striding (“let us also walk”)

d. **Problem** – v. 26

- 1) Slipping (“Let us not become”)
 - 2) Symptoms
 - a) Boastful
 - b) Challenging
 - c) Envy

Discussion Questions:

1. What is “legalism”? What is “license”? How do these things manifest themselves in the lives of believers? How does a correct understanding of the Gospel help us overcome these problems?
2. Review the “deeds of the flesh” in Gal. 5:16-21. What are some ways people have attempted to overcome these problems (apart from the Spirit of God)? Can we ultimately and permanently overcome these problems apart from the Spirit?
3. Read Mt. 13:1-23 and John 15:1-16. How much fruit does God want to produce in your life? What is your part in the process as a Spiritual Pomologist? What are you doing for the soil of your heart? How much seed of the Word are you ingesting daily (not just reading but actually ingesting and digesting through study, memorization, and meditation)? In what ways do you see God pruning you to make you more fruitful? How are you participating with Him in this process?
4. Why does Paul use the singular word “fruit” in Gal. 5:22? What is the significance of this? What are the practical implications for our lives?
5. What does it mean, “against such things there is no law”?
6. What does v. 24 tell us about how we started the Christian life? What does Paul mean by “have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires”? Do faith and repentance go together? According to this verse can people belong to Christ Jesus if they have not done this?
7. Gal. 5:25 can be translated, “Since we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also walk.” How does this connect to v. 24? How does this connect to Gal. 3:1-5? What implications does this have for the way a believer is sanctified?
8. Think through the word “crucify” and the implications of that word. What does it look like to daily (moment-by-moment) crucify our flesh with its passions and desires? How will you apply that this week to a specific problem area of your spiritual life? Be specific. Make plans. Become accountable.
9. Why does Paul use a different word for “walk” (stoicheo) in v. 25 than he did in v. 16 (peripateo)? What is the difference in the meaning? What are the implications of walking by the Spirit (stoicheo) in our battle with the flesh? How do we moment-by-moment “walk” (keep in step) with the Spirit?
10. If we aren’t walking by the Spirit what are the symptoms that show up in v. 26? How are these connected with legalism (flesh) vs. grace (Spirit)?
11. What one main thing are you going to change in your life this week as a result of this study?