

December 4, 2011
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Galatians 5:22-26

“Walking By The Spirit, Part Five”

- 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. Fruit of the Spirit (5:22-26)
 - a. Pomology – the scientific study and cultivation of fruit
 - 1) Superabundance – John 15:1-8
 - 2) Soil – Mt. 13; 1 Pet. 2:1
 - 3) Seed – Mt. 13; 1 Pet. 2:2
 - 4) Snip – Jn. 15:2
 - b. Product – v. 22-23
 - 1) Supernatural (“of the Spirit”) – He is a PERSON, not an impersonal force – He has intellect (1 Cor. 2:11-14), emotion (Eph. 4:30 – grieve), and will (1 Cor. 12:11); He is GOD (Acts 5); He is ANOTHER HELPER (John 14:16 – paraclete – comforter, advocate, intercessor) – exactly like Jesus; He CONVICTS us of sin, righteousness, and judgment to come (John 16:8-10); He CALLS us and DRAWS us to salvation; He CAUSES us to be born again (Jn. 3); He GIFTS us with spiritual gifts for the purpose of evangelizing the lost and edifying the saved (1 Cor. 12-14); He INDWELLS us (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6); He SANCTIFIES us (Gal. 3); He LEADS us (Rom. 8:14); He GUIDES us into truth (John 16:12-14); He wants to BRING GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! (Jn. 16:14); He SUPERNATURALLY produces in us things that are not NATURAL to us!
 - 2) Singular (“fruit”)
 - 3) Sanctified (“...against such things there is no law.”)
 - c. Practice – v. 24-25
 - 1) Starting
 - 2) Striding – “If (since) we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also walk.” (cf. Gal. 6:16; Rom. 8:14; Tit. 2:11-15; 2 Tim. 2:20)
 - d. Problem – v. 26
 - 1) Slipping into Legalism – “become”
 - 2) Symptoms
 - a) Boastful – kenodoxos (empty glory, boasting without reason; cf. Gal. 6:14; Lk. 18)
 - b) Challenging – prokaleomai (agitate, provoke, irritate, pick a fight)
 - c) Envy – phthoneo (compare jealousy & envy)
 - e. Particulars – v. 22-23
 - 1) Love (Greek: agape)

2) Joy (Greek: chara)

3) Peace (Greek: eirēnē)

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life? What part did He play in your salvation? What part does He now play in your sanctification?
2. Read Phil. 2:12-13; Acts 22:10; 1 Cor. 15:58. Does “walking in (by) the Spirit” mean passivity in your life? Do you simply “let go and let God” or “trust God and get going”?
3. What does it mean in Luke 9:23 to “deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me (Jesus)”? What does this look like on a daily basis in your life?
4. Read Gal. 5:26. How are “boastful,” “challenging,” and “envying” connected to legalism? How would a proper understanding of grace and walking by the Spirit enable us to overcome these tendencies?
5. What is a biblical definition for “love” (agape)? Is this an emotional word (feelings) or a volitional word (choice)? What are some biblical actions associated with this word (Jn. 3:16; 15:13; Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 3:16-17)?
6. Have you ever NOT felt like loving someone? How would walking by the Spirit impact what you do at that point, regardless of your feelings? How was Jesus an example in this area? In what ways is the Holy Spirit putting Jesus on display in your life through love?
7. What is a biblical definition for “joy”? How is it different from happiness? Is it dependent upon circumstances? What is your part in having joy on display in your life when you are in difficult circumstances? How was Jesus an example of joy for us (Heb. 12:1-3)? In what ways is the Holy Spirit putting Jesus on display in your life through joy?
8. What is a biblical definition for “peace”? Is peace dependent upon circumstances? How is the peace of Jesus (and the Holy Spirit) different from the peace the world offers (Jn. 14:27)? How was Jesus an example of peace for us? In what ways is the Holy Spirit putting Jesus on display in your life through peace?