

December 11, 2011
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Gal. 5:22-26

“Walking By The Spirit, Part Six”

- 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
 - b. **Product** – v. 22-23
 - c. **Practice** – v. 24-25
 - d. **Problem** – v. 26
 - 1) **Slipping into Legalism** – “become”
 - 2) **Symptoms**
 - a) **Boastful** – Greek: kenodoxos (empty glory, boasting without reason, being arrogant and conceited, puffed up with pride) – Gal. 6:14; Lk. 18
 - b) **Challenging** – Greek: prokaleomai (agitate, provoke, irritate, pick a fight)
 - c) **Envy** – Greek: phthoneo

D.L Moody, “**I believe firmly that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride and selfishness and ambition and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts. But if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. We must be emptied before we can be filled.**” (J. Kuhatschek, Taking The Guesswork Out of Applying The Bible, IVP, p. 153ff)

- e. **Particulars – v. 22-23 - “The mere recital of these Christian graces should be enough to make the mouth water and the heart beat faster. For this is a portrait of Jesus Christ.” (John Stott)**
 - 1) **Love (agape)**
 - a) **The Scriptural Definition** - _____; _____ (Jn. 3:16, 19; 15:13; Lk. 6:27-38; Phil. 2:3-4; 1 Cor. 13:1-8)
 - b) **The Sinful Contrast** - _____ & _____
_____ (2 Cor. 2:5-11; Eph. 4:31-32)
 - c) **The Supreme Example** (Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 3:16; 4:7-19; Lk. 23:34)

d) The Specific Commands (Lk. 6:35; Jn. 13:34; Eph. 5:1-2, 25; Rom. 12:9-21; 1 Jn. 2:4-5, 15-17; 3:16-18; 4:7-8, 19-21)

e) The Spiritual Impact (Jn. 13:34-35; 14:15, 21, 23; 1 Jn. 3:18-21; Gal. 5:14; 6:2)

Discussion Questions:

1. 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?
2. What is a biblical definition for “love” (agape)? Is this an emotional word (feelings) or a volitional word (choice)? How does this word relate to “value” and “worth”? (See John 3:19)
3. Fill in the blanks with your name: _____ is patient, _____ is kind *and* _____ is not jealous; _____ does not brag *and* _____ is not arrogant, _____ does not act unbecomingly; _____ does not seek its own, _____ is not provoked, _____ does not take into account a wrong *suffered*, _____ does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but _____ rejoices with the truth; _____ bears all things, _____ believes all things, _____ hopes all things, _____ endures all things. _____ never fails...” (1 Cor. 13:4-8a)
4. Circle the areas in #3 above that are the most difficult for you. Discuss with your group how a proper understanding of love (agape) can help in that area. Discuss how you will die to self, crucify your flesh, and walk by the Spirit in that area.
5. According to the sermon, bitterness & lack of forgiveness are opposites of biblical love (agape). Why is that? How would biblical love and a deeper understanding of God’s grace help us overcome these things? (See Mt. 6:9-15; Mk. 11:25; Mt. 18:21-35)
6. What are some biblical actions associated with “love” (Jn. 3:16; 15:13; Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 3:16-17)?
7. 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?
8. Your boss is not a Christian and has a very foul mouth and has many obnoxious habits that greatly annoy you. Inwardly you dislike the person. How do you love such a person and how should you relate to him? How would understanding grace and walking by the Spirit make a difference?
9. Determine some guidelines for settling a dispute between a husband and wife where bitterness has developed but neither are willing to admit any wrong. Can there be forgiveness without confession? How does yielding your rights to God relate to this problem?
10. In what ways is the Holy Spirit putting Jesus on display in your life through love?

[Answers to blanks: value; worth; bitterness; lack of forgiveness]