

Week of July 30 - Small Group Lesson Lesson 7

Connect

How can we make a difference in the world? How might your answer differ from the person who lives across the street? Why?

Verses - Galatians 5:19-26 (NKJV)

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Study

1. a. Are the “works of the flesh” to which Paul refers in vv.19-21 observed in Christians? If so, how can Christians “inherit the kingdom of God?”

   b. How can I know if I am a “Christian”? (vv.22-23; John 14:10-12; John 7:38)

   c. Is the fruit of the Spirit observable in non-Christians? (1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 8:7-9)

2. Paul contrasts the "fleshly" behavior with a list of character traits produced when a believer is led by the Holy Spirit (vv.22-23 - Note that no specific actions are specified.)

   What does this suggest about what it means to walk in the Spirit? (v23b; Galatians 5:1; James 1:25; Romans 12:2)

🏋️ **APPLY:** How did Jesus walk in the Spirit? How can you? (Ephesians 5:1-2)

☕ **DISCUSS:** Paul writes: *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.* (1 Timothy 1:15)

What does Paul want us to keep in mind when we struggle against the flesh? (v24; Galatians 2:20) What do we learn from him?

Share

After urging them to walk in the Spirit (v.25) Paul warns the Ephesians not to become conceited (v.26).

As a Christian so far, have you ever thought you were making spiritual progress only to discover that you had fallen into pride? Please share your experiences and how you handled them.

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray that we hold true that we are born again only because of Christ and produce the Fruit of the Spirit only by the Holy Spirit.
- Pray that we will understand this more, yield more to the Holy Spirit, and that God will deliver us from temptation of pride and envy of one another.