



## DESIRES: GALATIANS 5:16-26

### Community Group Study Guide Week of November 3, 2019

We continued our series “Tough & Tender” this week by looking at how to Lion and Lamb our desires. All of our behavioral sin is merely symptomatic of broken and disordered desires in our hearts. Our sinful nature longs for things that are contrary to our own well being, or with a disproportionate eagerness that pulls us away from what we most desperately need. We were created to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, to joyfully obey and keep his commands, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Nothing less than this will ever satisfy the deep longings of our heart. When our souls are not satisfied in God, they become insatiable vacuums desperately sucking in lesser things with the hopes of filling that void.

Scripture talks about our fallen state as slavery to sinful desires, from which we need freedom and deliverance. It also acknowledge that we are incapable of mastering our desires in our own strength. The “Good News” Christianity proclaims is the hope that we can be “born again.” What this means is that God regenerates our souls, and replaces our broken hearts of stone, with tender hearts of flesh. We’re given new desires, the first of which is to repent and put our faith in Jesus Christ. This is the moment of Justification by faith. Jesus took our guilty status upon Himself, and exchanges it for his perfect status. The Son of God then purchased our redemption from slavery to Satan and sin with His own blood, and the Father adopts us into the family.

One of the most important truths that every new Christian needs to learn is that salvation doesn’t end with the amazing reality of Justification. At the moment of **Justification**, Jesus saves us from the **penalty** that our sins deserve. Following Justification, however, we begin a lifelong process called **Sanctification** through which God, by his grace, gives us victory over the **power** of sin in our lives as well. Our ultimate hope is the final state of **Glorification**, in which God will save us from the **presence** of sin for all eternity. As followers of Jesus, we stand on the foundation of our Justification in Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit we war against our flesh. By God’s grace we quench the sinful desires of our flesh to death by stoking holy desires of the Spirit to life.

## DISCUSSION GOALS

### Head

To understand we are saved by grace through faith both in our Justification and in our ongoing Sanctification.

### Heart

To trust that Jesus is better and more satisfying than the desires of our sinful nature.

### Hands

To fight in the power of God’s grace to put our sin to death, and replace the desires of our flesh with the desires of the Spirit.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Membership or Baptism:

Contact

[admin@mosaicboston.com](mailto:admin@mosaicboston.com) to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

### Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact Andy Hoot at [andy@mosaicboston.com](mailto:andy@mosaicboston.com).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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### **Read Galatians 5:1-6:10**

1. How would you explain the difference between Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification to a new believer? How has understanding these terms helped you grow in your walk with Christ?
2. Outward sinful behaviors flow out of inward sinful desires, or disordered desires. How can this perspective help us to fight our sin in a more healthy and effective way?
3. Why is resting in our Justification in Christ vital to fighting for our ongoing Sanctification in Christ?
4. Paul lists 16 fruits of the sinful nature, but they fall in to 4 categories: sexual sin, false religion, relational sin, and substance abuse. How do each of these categories have the power to pull us away from God? What specific desires do they each target in our hearts? What promises do they make?
5. How does the Gospel give us power to have victory over the works of the flesh? How does the Gospel promise us something better than the promises of sexual sin, false religion, relational sin, or substance abuse?
6. Pastor Jan gave us 7 points of practical application this week: 1) Humbly seek to be filled with the Spirit. 2) Call a sin a sin. 3) See sin for what it really is in God's presence. 4) Be killing sin or it will be killing you. 5) Take immediate and radical action when tempted. 6) Desire what the Holy Spirit desires. 7) Pursue the means of grace (scripture & prayer, suffering, Christian fellowship). Reflecting on these applications, which ones did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
7. How would you explain the difference between fighting sin in the flesh, and fighting sin in the Spirit? Why is it important that we know the difference?
8. How do we "sow to the flesh" or "sow to the spirit" (6:8)? How does this metaphor of sowing or planting seed help you think about our sanctification?
9. What else stood out to you from these texts or the sermon this week? What did you find challenging, convicting, or encouraging?