



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Galatians 5:16–26

Questions for the Week: Has there ever been a time when you did something you knew was wrong, but you wanted to do the wrong thing anyway? Why did you want to do the thing you knew was wrong?

READ THE TEXT – Galatians 5:16–26

The Structure

Walking in The Spirit vs. Legislating the Flesh

1. Commands and Warnings (Gal 5:16)
 - 1.1. Walk in the Spirit (5:16a; see also 5:18, 25; Rom 8:4)
 - 1.2. Do not gratify the desires of the flesh (5:16b; see Eph 2:1–3)
2. Explanation of the Conflict (Gal 5:17–18)
 - 2.1. Opposition between the Flesh and Spirit (5:17)
 - 2.1.1. The flesh desires against the spirit (Rom 8:5–8)
 - 2.1.2. The spirit desires against the flesh (Rom 8:9–11; 1 Cor 2:14–16; 6:17–20)
 - 2.1.3. These things [flesh and spirit] are opposed, so whatever you do not want, these things you do (Rom 7:13–20, 22–24)
 - 2.2. Led by the Spirit not under law (Gal 5:18; Rom 7:4–6)
3. Works of the Flesh (Gal 5:19–21)
 - 3.1. Obvious
 - 3.2. Sexual: “sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality” (5:19)
 - 3.2.1. “Sexual immorality” is generic for illicit refers to sexual activity, including sex outside of marriage (Matt 5:32; 15:19; 19:9; 1 Cor 5:1; 6:13, 18; 7:2)
 - 3.2.2. “Impurity” opposite of holiness (Lev 5:3; 7:20–21; 15:3 often in contexts referring to sexual impurity (Rom 1:24; 2 Cor 12:21; Eph 4:19; 5:3; Col 3:5)
 - 3.2.3. “Sensuality” refers to unrestrained indulgence in sex or violence (Rom 13:13; 2 Cor 12:21; Eph 4:19; 1 Pet 4:3)
 - 3.3. Theological: “idolatry, sorcery” (5:20)
 - 3.3.1. “idolatry” is the worship other gods or worship God in an inappropriate way (Exod 32:1–35; 1 Cor 10:14; Col 3:5; 1 Pet 4:3).
 - 3.3.2. “sorcery” is the Greek word *pharmakeia*, where we get the word “pharmacy” refers to Egyptian magicians (Exod 7:11, 22; 8:3, 14) and cutting of roots and mixing plants to make “potions” (Rev 18:23).

- 3.4. Social/Relational: “enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.” (Gal 5:20–21)
- 3.5. Those who do such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God (Gal 5:21; 1 Cor 6:9–11; Eph 5:5)
4. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22–23)
 - 4.1. Love: “self-giving care for the other” (Rom 5:5; 1 Cor 13:4–12)
 - 4.2. Joy: happiness or celebration (Rom 14:17; 15:13, 32–33)
 - 4.3. Peace: wholeness, completeness (Phil 4:7; Col 3:15; Rom 14:19)
 - 4.4. Patience: ability to endure difficulty (Eph 4:2; Col 1:11; 3:12)
 - 4.5. Kindness: a kind of generous provision for others (Ps 68:10; 106:5)
 - 4.6. Goodness: quality of character (Rom 15:14; Eph 5:9)
 - 4.7. Faithfulness: reliability (1 Cor 1:9; 10:13; 2 Cor 1:18; 1 Thess 5:24)
 - 4.8. Gentleness: a person not given to anger and teachable (James 1:21; 1 Cor 4:21; 2 Cor 10:1)
 - 4.9. Self-control: the opposite of indulgence (2 Pet 1:6)
5. Those who Belong to Christ (Gal 5:24–26)
 - 5.1. We crucify the flesh in baptism (Gal 5:24; Rom 6:6–11) and continues in discipleship (Luke 9:23–27; 1 Cor 15:31)
 - 5.2. Keep in Step with the Spirit by modeling our lives after Jesus (Gal 5:25–26; see Phil 2:3–11)

Activities and Questions this Week:

Spend some time praying and journaling:

1. Father, thank you for giving me your spirit. Thank you for making me alive. Thank you for rescuing me. Thank you for redeeming me. Thank you for loving me and giving your son for me. Will you remind of your presence and comfort me by your spirit?
2. Father in heaven, reveal to me the ways that I continue live “according to the flesh”? What are the weeds choking out the fruit of the spirit in my life? How do you want to uproot those weeds?
3. Father, show me what my life will look like as the fruit of the spirit grows in my life. Show me a vision of myself as the person you created me be, a person who is characterized by “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”

After praying these questions, spend some time listening. What do you hear? What passages of Scripture come to mind? What names come to mind? What persistent thoughts come to mind? Write down what you think you’re hearing/feeling/perceiving.

Weekly Questions:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What stood out to you from the text this week?
- What does this text say about the Lord’s reign and what it means to be his set apart people?

- Who are the characters of this story?
- What does this passage invite us to:
 - Do?
 - Think?
 - Feel?
- How did the sermon or passage encourage you to Love God and Love People?
- Which characters do you identify with most in the story? Why?