

Week 7: The Fruit as life belonging to Christ Jesus and Spirit empowered Paul attaches a phrase to the end of the description on the fruit of the Spirit. He noted "against these there is no law. There is not human framework or governance that changes the relationship with God and the people. Further there is no law that produces fruit (virtue) but more often compliance and formulae. Generally, persons who have not repented have no interest or tolerance for the Fruit of the Spirit that interferes with their self-interest.

How do we look at our purpose in Christ from God's point of view? Why does that matter today?

Paul in speaking about the Fruit of the Spirit focused on living the justified life in Christ. It is God's grace that allows this development in relationships as positioning the Christian to live well toward inheriting God's kingdom. Living by the Spirit is one aspect living in freedom in Christ. The other is learning to "love your neighbor as yourself." [Gal. 5:13-14]

Paul insists that freedom that form relationships toward people is guided by the Spirit. Read Galatians 5:16-18]. Why is this principle so important to the problem Paul was confronting and to disagreement in church/community today?

- 1.
- 2.

The three statements about the transformed relationship in Christ (life of the justified in versus life under law) refers of the life in the Spirit.

1. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified self with its passions and desires. Gal.5:24. CEB Wesley Study Bible

What does crucified self in Christ Jesus look like?

- a. Freedom to bear the Fruit of the ...
- b. Crucify the flesh and its passions and it's... (Rom.6:6; Col. 3:5)

How is this to be done? Be guided by the Spirit (Gal.5:16). Renewing of the life choices (Rom.6:4). Testing all things to discern the good (1 Thess.5:21-22).

2. "If you live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit." (Gal. 5:25 CEB).

Following the pattern of the influence of the Spirit is to suggest being in connection and moving in the same direction. The leadership of the spirit is learned over time beginning when all put ourselves completely under the control of the Spirit. This challenges the need for cautious legalism of the Law that narrowed the listening of the Spirit to the established text. Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:19 referring "quenching" of the Spirit is to ignore or refuse to listen to anything the Spirit had to say beyond what was already revealed in Scriptures.

How do you follow the Spirit in your daily walk with Christ?

3. "Let's not become arrogant, make each other angry, or be jealous of each other." (Gal.5:26 CEB). [See Gal 5:15]

a. What are some empty things that are often given high recognition in church and life? What can happen?

b. How could Christians be provoked by goading, inciting or daring one another to do things against conscience or comfort in the church/community? Share ways of changing direction.

c. Why is it necessary to set people free to live by the Spirit? How is being done today in our congregations?

We conclude our study time with affirming that the Fruit of the Spirit is about living a new life. The gift of the Fruit of the Spirit is to glorify God and live joyfully in God forever. Living in with the Fruit of the Spirit is a gift from God but requires effort of the Christian. The gift of the Spirit requires the empowering for hard work of believers witnessing of Christ Jesus in a hostile world.

Evaluation

End Prayer