



Spirit or Flesh

Love or Hatred - Week 1
Small Group Questions

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever[a] you want. **18** But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21** and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Galatians 5:16-26 NIV

1. In Galatians 5:16–26, what stands out to you about the contrast between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit?
2. The sermon suggested that walking in the Spirit produces something in us that goes beyond our natural capacity. Where have you seen God change the way you respond to people?
3. Why do you think love comes first in Paul’s list of the fruit of the Spirit? How might love shape the other qualities that follow?
4. Read 1 John 4:19–21. Why does John connect loving God so closely with loving other Christians? What makes love within the church especially difficult sometimes?
5. Jesus expands love beyond people who are easy for us to love. Read Luke 10:25–37. Who tends to become the person we might naturally overlook, avoid, or assume is someone else’s responsibility?
6. Read Matthew 5:43–48. What is the difference between loving an enemy and simply allowing someone to mistreat you? What might Christlike love toward an enemy actually look like?
7. Hatred, discord, jealousy, rage, selfish ambition, factions, and envy all appear among the works of the flesh. Which of these most often contributes to a breakdown of love in relationships today?
8. Think about this question privately before answering: When someone hurts, frustrates, or opposes you, what does your flesh naturally want to do? What might the Spirit be calling you to do instead?
9. “We love because he first loved us.” How does receiving Christ’s love change Christian love from merely trying harder to be a good person?
10. This week, who is one person toward whom the Spirit may be asking you to practice costly love? What is one concrete action you could take?