



Message Notes & Life Group Study Guide
November 18-19, 2017
Grace Alone: Character – What Fruit Are You Bearing?

MESSAGE NOTES

Galatians 5:22-25

STUDY GUIDE

Reference:

Open in prayer and read Galatians 5:22-25.

Review:

What was one thing from this week's message, or scripture reference, that stood out to you?

Reflect:

1. What is your favorite fruit and why?

2. Read John 15:1-8. It has been said that the fruit of the Spirit is not a checklist to strive for, but a harvest that is the outcome of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Based on John 15, how do we reap that harvest? Explain.

3. Discuss the tug-of-war experience Paul describes in verse 17 between the desires of the Spirit and the desires of “the flesh?” Do you sense this struggle in your own life? (See also Romans 7:14-25 for another description from Paul of this struggle between flesh and Spirit).

4. One author wrote this about putting to death the works of our flesh: “It’s painful to say “no” to my flesh. It hurts to watch a loved one starve to death.” Why would he label our sinful desires as a “loved one?” Do you feel that way about your inclination to sin?

5. What is the connection between the fruit of the spirit and the grace of God that Paul has repeatedly discussed in Galatians?

6. “Walking by the Spirit,” isn’t a program of sin mitigation, but gospel maximization. What is the difference between those two approaches to the Christian life?

Respond/Reinforce:

Meditate on Romans 8 this week. This passage goes into great detail about what it means to walk by the Spirit which is how fruit is produced in our lives. Allow the truth of God’s word from this chapter to wash over you and fill your heart.

Next Week’s Reading:

Scripture: Galatians 5:26-6:5

Tim Keller book: *Galatians for You*, Pages 159-171