

Gal. 5:16-26

I. Live by the Spirit (16-25)

A. Walk by the Spirit (16-17)

1. Commandment to walk by the Spirit (16)

a I am saying: (16a)

Rhetorical marker to highlight
Twofold command

b Walk by the Spirit, not the flesh (16b-c)

1) Walk/live by the Spirit (16b)

Walk = lifestyle
By means of, by the empowerment of the Spirit
This is a supernatural work, not depending on us and therefore not subject to our weakness,
But we participate in it by faith

2) Result: And you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh (16c)

Sinful desires opposed to Christ
The Spirit is opposed to Law and to flesh

2. Reason: Walking by the Spirit automatically means you won't walk by the flesh (17)

a The Spirit and the flesh have opposite desires (17a-b)

1) Neg: The flesh desires against the Spirit (17a)

2) Pos: The Spirit [desires] against the flesh (17b)

In context (v. 16) this refers to God's Spirit, not the human spirit

b Reason: The Spirit and the flesh are in opposition (17c-e)

1) For these things oppose each other (17c)

2) Purpose: so that you don't do what you want (17d-e)

a) Whatever you will (17d)

b) You do not do these things (17e)

To keep you from doing it
i.e. the flesh purposes to keep you from doing right
The Spirit keeps you from doing wrong

B. Be Led by the Spirit (18-24)

1. Be Led by the Spirit (18)

a If: You are led by the Spirit (18a)

b Then: You are not under the Law (18b)

Not under control of, under obligation to the Law
The answer to how to behave without Law is to live by/be led by the Spirit
Then you will then fulfill the Law
We will want to do what is right, not have to do it

2. What being led by the Spirit looks like (19-24)
 - a Neg: The Works of the flesh (19-21)
 - 1) These are the manifest works of the flesh (19-21a)
 - a) The works of the flesh are plainly to be seen (19a)
 - Works of the flesh – the things that the flesh does
 - Flesh – the part of our sinful nature characterized by weakness and therefore sinfulness as opposed to God
 - Manifest – evident, known, obvious
 - b) Specifically: They are: (19b-21a)
 - (1) Sexual immorality
 - Any sex outside of God’s sanctioned purpose of marriage
 - (2) Immorality
 - Spiritual uncleanness, vileness, impurity, immorality
 - (3) Lack of moral restraint
 - Debauchery, complete lack of self-restraint which leads to wicked behavior
 - (4) Idolatry
 - Worship of images/false gods
 - (5) Sorcery
 - Sorcery/magic, often using drugs
 - (6) Enmity
 - Hostility, hatred
 - (7) Rivalry
 - Discord, contention, strife, quarreling
 - (8) Envy
 - Jealousy, spiteful feeling/hatred toward the success of others
 - (9) Rage
 - Anger, wrath, fury, outbursts of rage
 - (10) Selfish Ambition
 - Strife, resentment, petty bitterness
 - (11) Discord
 - Division, dissention, putting people against one another/separating people into camps
 - (12) Factions
 - Dissention, division, religious faction with the connotation of false teaching
 - (13) Jealousy
 - Envy, ill will toward others
 - (14) Drunkenness
 - Intoxication
 - (15) Carousing
 - Orgies, drunken parties usually involving sexual immorality
 - (16) And things of a similar nature as these

- 2) Result: These things disqualify for the Kingdom of God (21b-d)
 - a) I told you in advance (21b-c)
 - (1) I am saying these things to you ahead of time (21b)
 - Warning
 - (2) Just as I said earlier (21c)
 - b) That those practicing these things will not inherit the Kingdom of God (21d)
 - b Pos: The Fruit of the Spirit (22-24)
 - 1) The Fruit of the Spirit is not opposed to the Law (22-23)
 - a) The Fruit of the Spirit is: (22-23a)
 - Product of the Spirit of God
 - Singular Fruit, with a number of facets
 - Specifically elaborated
 - (1) Love
 - Concern for others
 - (2) Joy
 - Gladness, happiness
 - (3) Peace
 - Harmony in personal relationships, lack of anxiety/turmoil
 - (4) Longsuffering
 - Patience, forbearance, ability to calmly persevere under adverse situations
 - (5) Kindness
 - Benevolence, goodness, helpfulness, generosity
 - (6) Goodness/Generosity
 - Generosity, interest in the welfare of others
 - (7) Faith
 - Trust, reliance, faithfulness, trustworthiness, reliability, commitment, loyalty
 - (8) Meekness
 - Gentleness, not being overly impressed by a sense of one's self-importance, humility, courtesy, considerateness, meekness
 - (9) Self-Control
 - Restraint, mastery of desires and impulses
 - b) There is not a law against things like these (23b)
 - The Law is not against these things
 - 2) Result: Those of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and desires (24)
 - Inordinate desires, desires out of place, out of control, out of balance
- C. Conform to the Spirit (25)
 - 1. If we live by the Spirit (25a)
 - 2. Then: We will live in conformity with the Spirit (25b)
 - Live according to the standard of the Spirit

- II. Therefore: Let us not become arrogant toward one another (26)
 - A. Let us not become conceited/proud without reason (26a)
 - Wrapping us from v. 15
 - B. By provoking and being jealous of one another (26b-c)
 - 1. Provoking one another (26b)
 - Challenging one another
 - 2. Being envious of one another (26c)