

Experience the Freedom

Text: Galatians 5:16-26

Prayer

Icebreaker: From time to time we hear of Christians who disgrace the Lord by losing their temper, embezzling funds, cheating on their taxes, murder, getting drunk, using drugs, beating someone up, having an affair, etc. Why do you think this happens?

1. Galatians 5:16 exhorts us to walk in the Spirit so that we don't fulfill the desires of the flesh. What is the flesh? There are two different meanings for flesh in the New Testament. Contrast 1 Timothy 3:16; Galatians 2:20, Galatians 5:16 and Romans 7:18

2. There are 4 kinds of people mentioned in 1 Corinthians 2:14 – 3:3. What are they?

Before we became Christians we only had one nature – our carnal, sinful, fleshly nature which we inherited from Adam. Read Psalm 51:5; 58:3, Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-18; 5:12 to see what God says about the natural man in his vulnerability to sin.

3. Describe the new nature we receive when we become Christians.
Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Colossians 3:9-10

4. What potential conflict arises in me now that I have two natures? Galatians 5:17

5. Does the Christian’s motivation and power to obey God and to become more like Jesus come from the Ten Commandments? Galatians 5:18, 22-23; Galatians 2:21

6. Read and define the carnal works that come from walking after the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21, and figure out what the opposite quality would be coming from the Holy Spirit, verses 22-23.

The works of the flesh

The fruit of the Spirit

Adultery _____

Fornication _____

Uncleanness & Lewdness _____

Idolatry _____

Sorcery *pharmakeia* _____

Hatred _____

Contentions & Strife _____

Jealousy _____

Temper _____

Selfish ambitions _____

Dissension _____

Heresy _____
Envy _____
Murder _____
Drunkenness _____
Revelries _____

7. What is the key to victory over the desires of our old sinful nature? Galatians 5:24-26; Colossians 3:5; Romans 6:6-7, 11-13

Think about this week:

Meditate on the fruit of the Spirit, and look for the evidence that it is being manifested through your life as a result of walking in the Spirit.

*Now the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, and self-control.*

Galatians 5:22-23