

LG | Leader

[Galatians 5:16-25]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

It is likely that everyone present had a very busy day, maybe even a trying day. Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- After hearing the sermon from Sunday, what most resonated with you? What were the takeaways for your family as a whole?
- In light of Sunday's message, have you resolved to make any life changes?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Read our primary text. Let's first gain some context for this passage. Who is the author and who is the audience? What genre of literature is this? Who recalls the theme and purpose of Galatians?
[Let's take a moment to find these answers]

Paul is credited for authorship given the first verse. He is writing to the churches in Galatia. The genre of literature is a New Testament epistle (letter). Paul is writing to the Galatians because a false gospel has infiltrated the church declaring that one must be circumcised to receive salvation. Because of this, dissention is present in the church because they are split on what is true. Unlike many other letters Paul has written, there is no greeting, vividly displaying Paul's frustration with the current state of affairs.

2. What exactly is the "flesh?" Apart from the Spirit, what works does our flesh produce? What is the end result and destination for those who develop a lifelong pattern of gratifying the flesh?

The flesh is our fallen human nature and its desires. Apart from the Spirit, our flesh produces works such as those listed in verse 19 and following. Those who continually seek the desires of the flesh, gain the very thing they neglect their whole life, a life apart from the Spirit; eternity apart from God (v.21). It is Christ that frees us from this bondage of the flesh, thus providing reconciliation with God and a deposit of the Holy Spirit.

3. In contrast to the flesh, what/who is the Spirit? What are the works of the Spirit? What is the end result and destination for those who develop a lifelong pattern of obedience to God's word under the direction of the Spirit?

The Spirit refers to God's Holy Spirit. When one is walking with God's Holy Spirit, they have the ability to produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit. These fruits are listed in verse 22 and following. One who is obedient to God's word and is willing to be led by the Spirit, inherits eternal life (Rom. 8:16).

4. What does it mean to walk by the Spirit? Who leads?

Walking by the Spirit means to *yield* to the Spirit, to make decisions and choices *according to* the Holy Spirit. It is the surrendering of your life to the will of God revealed to us in His holy word; to His Glory and your ultimate benefit. Walking in the flesh and walking in the Spirit are mutually exclusive – it is one or the other.

5. Is it possible to overcome the flesh without the Spirit?

No, it is impossible. John 15:4-5 helps us with this, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch **cannot bear fruit of itself** unless it abides in the vine, so **neither can you** unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches; **he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing**

6. What does verse 17 imply for those who believe?

The Christian life is hard; it is a struggle and a battle against the flesh. But, we have refuge, power and help in the Spirit. We must be constantly engaged in the war against the flesh by the power of the Holy Spirit.

7. How would you define envy? If God is the giver of all good things, what ultimately is envy? Where does the concept of envy originate?

[Allow the group to express their definitions of envy]. The Bible expresses that envy comes about when people are not content with what God has given them, longing for what he has given others (ESV Study Bible). The concept of envy is derived from the 10th commandment, "You shall not covet."

8. How would you put this passage in your own words?

[Allow group to internalize then verbalize out loud]

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.