

**An Invitation and Calling:**  
**Learning to Live in the Grace of Christ**  
**September 16 – November 11 2012**  
**“The Grace of Christ to Keep in Step with the Holy Spirit”**  
**Study Helps: Week Seven of Nine**  
**Galatians 5:16-26, Oct 28 2012**

**Focus for Week Seven**

We have been investigating together a most remarkable **invitation and calling that God extends to all people to “live in the grace of Christ”** (Galatians 1:6). Last week, we discovered that this invitation is a call to **freedom**. “It is for freedom that Christ has set you free” (Galatians 5:1).

This morning, **we explore two absolutely remarkable aspects of the grace of Christ.**

- First, by the grace of Christ, the Holy Spirit helps us see the **OBVIOUS** differences in ourselves between the actions of the flesh and the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Second, by the grace of Christ, the Holy Spirit teaches us and empowers us to “keep in step with Holy Spirit” focused on Christ.

As we consider Paul’s words, it is appropriate that we ask ourselves, “What are some of the evidences in me that the Holy Spirit is bearing the fruit of the grace of Christ in my life?”

**Summary of Message**

**I. By the Grace of Christ, the Holy Spirit helps us to SEE the Obvious Differences in OURSELVES between the Actions of the Flesh and the Fruit of the Holy Spirit**

**A. Obvious Difference Stated (5:16-18)**

1. Walk by the Holy Spirit, and you **will not gratify the desires** of the flesh (5:16)
  - a. meanings: “you will not carry out the desire of the flesh” “you will bring to an end the passionate lust/longing of the flesh”
  - b. Focusing on walking by the Spirit will cancel the need to gratify the flesh
2. Contrast Clear: The desires of the Holy Spirit are contrary to the desires of the flesh (5:17a)
3. Discernment Required: Those free in Christ may not just do what they want (meaning: so you may not do whatever you please)
4. DIFFERENCE: To be led by the Holy Spirit NOT the same as being UNDER the law

**B. The actions of the flesh (5:19-21)**

1. **Actions OBVIOUS:** The actions of the flesh are obvious
2. **ACTIONS described** (with descriptions from *The Message*)
  - a. Sexual immorality – repetitive, loveless, cheap sex
  - b. Impurity – a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage

- c. Debauchery – frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness
  - d. Idolatry – trinket gods
  - e. Witchcraft – magic-show religion
  - f. Hatred – paranoid loneliness
  - g. Discord – cutthroat competition
  - h. Jealousy – all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants
  - i. Fits of Rage – a brutal temper
  - j. Selfish Ambition – an impotence to love or be loved
  - k. Dissensions –divided homes and divided lives
  - l. Factions – small-minded and lopsided pursuits
  - m. Envy – the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival
  - n. Drunkenness – uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions
  - o. Orgies – ugly parodies (satires, spoofs) of community
  - p. And the Like – I could go on (In Romans 1, he does)
- 3. Grace-filled Rebuke (5:21b)**
- a. Spoken to people who say they belong to Christ
  - b. Warning given already (LOTS OF TIMES)
  - c. If you use your freedom to indulge the flesh . . . .  
Why? If the work of the Holy Spirit in a person’s life is obvious, it is obvious whether a person is walking by the Spirit

## C. The Fruit of the Spirit (5:22-23)

### 1. “Fruit” of the Holy Spirit

- a. From the same seed, which is Christ (see Galatians 3:16,29)
- b. Displays the Holiness of God
- c. Takes time for the Holy Spirit to develop this fruit in us

### 2. The fruit of the Holy Spirit GROWS (with descriptions from *The Message*)

- a. Love – affection of others
- b. Joy – exuberance about life
- c. Peace – serenity
- d. Forbearance/Patience – we develop a willingness to stick with things
- e. Kindness – a sense of compassion in the heart
- f. Goodness – a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people
- g. Faithfulness – we find ourselves involved in loyal commitments
- h. Gentleness – not needing to force our way in life
- i. Self-control – able to marshal and direct our energies wisely

## II. By the grace of Christ, the Holy Spirit teaches us to walk by the Spirit

### A. Descriptions of this walk

- 1. Walk (5:16; present tense, “go on walking”) – This walk is intended to become a Spirit-formed habit.
- 2. Led by Spirit (5:18) – Helped by Holy Spirit who teaches us, rebukes us, corrects us, trains us in Christ’s righteousness so we walk focused on Christ.
- 3. Keep in step (5:25b; “walk in line with” - different Greek verb than 5:16)

## **B. Learning First Steps the Holy Spirit Helps us Take (5:24-26)**

1. Whose am I? **BELONGING**: Those who belong to Christ . . .
  - a. Reminds us of truths learned in Galatians 1-4: forgiven, rescued, adopted, the offense of the cross, race set
  - b. Keeps us in the race: Remember Galatians 5:5: “For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus. . . “
2. Who am I? **IDENTITY**: I have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires . . .
3. **Exhortations along the Way**
  - a. “Let us” keep in step with the Spirit – Holy Spirit says, “Come on, keep in step.”
  - b. Let us NOT become conceited, provoking and envying each other – Holy Spirit says, “Don’t think you can do this in yourself; come on, quit comparing yourself to others; come on, keep your eyes on Jesus.”

### **For Further Study**

1. Read Galatians 5:16-26 and review the message summary above. What stands out to you from this section of Paul’s letter?
2. Compare the list of “works of the flesh” Paul mentions in Galatians 5:19-21 with his expanded words in Romans 1:18-2:4. What do you learn from this comparison?
3. Look at what Paul says in Galatians 5:24 in light of Galatians 2:20 & 6:14. How did Paul understand his identity in Christ?
  - Galatians 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”
  - Galatians 6:14 – “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”
4. As you consider Paul’s words, consider praying two obvious prayers:
  - Lord, by the grace of Christ, open my eyes to see the obvious difference in me between the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
  - Lord, by the grace of Christ, help me by the Holy Spirit learn to walk in step with the Holy Spirit.
5. Take Away Question: What are some of the evidences in me that the Holy Spirit is bearing the fruit of the grace of Christ in my life?

### **Galatians 5:16 - 26 (The Message)**

<sup>19-21</sup> It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.

<sup>22-23</sup> But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

### **Galatians 5:16-26 (NIV 2011)**

<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> 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 you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.