

Abide Part 10: Abiding Fruit (11-11-2018)

This Series: Abide - Living in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit

3 Parts: Who is the Holy Spirit, Cultivating our relationship with Him, and then how He flows through us.

Introduction: The Gifts & Fruit of the Spirit is the focus of the remainder of this series

Gifts – controversy & dis-agreement

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Fruit – is not controversial, but . . .

Is it abundant in our world, or even still in the church? What about in your life?

The Fruit of the Spirit may not be controversial as a topic, but it's missing as a way of life!

Today - we will focus on the context of Galatians chapter 5, and the 3 ways of living described.

Next week – we will unpack the specific fruit available to me and throw me to others!

Galatians chapter 5 – Three ways to live!

1) Justifying Yourself (Galatians 5:1-12)

Galatians 5:2-4 (ESV)

(2) Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. (3) I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. (4) You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

Galatians 5:7-9 (ESV)

(7) You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? (8) This persuasion is not from him who calls you. (9) A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

- Jesus warned in a parable about the Kingdom of God and the mixing in of leaven.
- He also warned about the leaven of the Pharisees – heaping heavy burdens on people, but it didn't match the inward condition of their hearts or the reality of their lives. (Luke 11-12)

Galatians 5:12 (ESV)

I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

Jesus offers Freedom from this way of living . . .

Galatians 5:1, 5-6, 18 (ESV)

(1) For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery . . . (5) For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. (6) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love . . . (18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

- Jesus wants us to be free, but that's not often how the fruit is taught
- Fruit are described as if they are something we need to manufacture.

2) Following your Flesh (Galatians 5:13-21)

Galatians 5:13-15 (ESV)

(13) For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (14) **For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** (15) But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

- This is the opposite of fruit – we become cannibals! We eat each other, to fulfill our own desires.
- We do this in small ways in our relationships – have you ever - bit someone's head off?
- We see this epidemic in our world – destructive power of addiction & lusts – using others to gratify self

Galatians 5:17, 19-21 (ESV)

(17) For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do . . . (19) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, (20) idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, (21) envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- Flesh & Spirit are incompatible – and we often live in the tension of this war.
- In case there is any confusion, review that list and see if you have battle any of those things this week!

Jesus offers Freedom from this way of living as well . . .

Galatians 5:16, 24-25 (ESV)

(16) But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (24) And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) **If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.**

Note the process: Death to the Flesh – New Life in the Spirit – Daily Walking with Jesus

3) Life in the Spirit – a fruitful life (Galatians 5:22-23)

a) Focus – Set your mind on the Spirit

Romans 8:5-6 (ESV)

(5) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (6) For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

- I never met anyone who could get free from sin by trying hard to stop.
- Freedom is in pursuing something else entirely – change your focus, set your eyes elsewhere
- In the pursuit of life in the Spirit you will find freedom from the flesh

b) Habit – Renew your mind by life in the Spirit

Psalms 1:1-3 (ESV)

(1) Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; (2) but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (3) He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

- Daily habit of renewing your mind – set your mind on the life God invites you into
- Feed your spirit (that's the opposite of leaven – it's the bread of life)

c) Rest – Rest your mind by trusting in Him

Jeremiah 17:5-10 (ESV)

(5) Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. (6) He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. (7) "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. (8) He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." (9) The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? (10) "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

- **Verse 7 – Two forms of trust . . .**
 - **Verb – trust in the Lord**
 - **Noun – He is a place of Trust (think refuge or tower)**
- **Plant yourself in Him, and trust Him to take care of the outcome!**

Conclusion: Choose life in the Spirit, walk out and trust in the Process, then watch His fruit grow in your life!