

Living By the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-26

Laws cannot change man’s sinful nature. Laws, traditions and punishments are unable to control the sinful nature from the outside. But Christ has bought our freedom and through the Holy Spirit, God is changing us from the inside. When we live according to the Spirit, we continue to grow in the grace and freedom we enjoy in Christ.

Read Galatians 5:16-26

1. How can we overcome our sinful nature? As they say, “we’re only human.” (v. 16)

2. What kind of conflict is Paul describing in verse 17? (v. 17)

3. If we are led by the Spirit, how does that show that we are not under the law? (v. 18)

4. The acts of the sinful nature are grouped. How would you define each group? (vv. 19-21)

5. What warning does Paul give concerning anyone who lives according to the sinful nature?

6. The fruit of the Spirit can be contrasted with the acts of the sinful nature listed in verses 19-21. List each characteristic of the fruit of the Spirit below and what acts of the sinful nature it contrasts with. (vv. 22-23)

7. What does Paul say is not against the fruit of the Spirit? (v. 23)

8. Who has crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires? (v. 24)

9. What does Paul mean by keeping in step with the Spirit? (v. 25)

10. We know from verse 15 that the Galatians were “biting and devouring” each other. In verse 26, what attitudes does Paul urge them to avoid? (v. 26)

Life Application

11. What sins do you still struggle with—whether they are outward acts or inward attitudes? How are these sins self-centered or indulgent?

12. Which qualities of the fruit of the Spirit might these sins be in conflict with?

13. Which qualities of the fruit of the Spirit do you see “ripening” in your life?

14. Which qualities of the fruit of the Spirit do you see are still “green” in your life?
