

“Walking in the Spirit”

Gal. 5:16-18

Introduction:

- A. Paul contrasts walking in the spirit to walking in the flesh (vv. 16-17; 24-25).
- B. Paul points out in this chapter three things that Christians walking in the Spirit will not do.

Discussion:

I. They Will Not Be Bound to the Old Testament Law (vv. 1,18)

- A. They would make Christ of no effect (vv. 2-4).
- B. They cannot be bound to just part of the law (v. 3)
 - 1. Cannot have “Sabbath” without the penalty (Ex. 31:15).
 - 2. Cannot have “instruments of music” without animal sacrifices (Ps. 150; 66:13).
- C. They cannot be bound without falling from grace (v. 4).
 - 1. Can do despite to spirit of grace (Heb. 10:26-31).
 - 2. Can so sin as to be lost.

II. They Will Not Bite and Devour One Another (v. 15)

- A. Opposite of “love your neighbor as yourself.” (v. 14).
- B. Done with malicious words to and/or about each other.
 - 1. Brethren consume each other with constant bickering.
 - 2. Brethren consume each other with gossip and back-biting.
 - 3. Brethren consume each other with harsh words to face.
 - 4. Brethren consume each other with constant criticism.

III. They Will Not Do the Works of the Flesh (vv. 19-21).

- A. Fleshly passion.
 - 1. Fornication — General sexual immorality.
 - 2. Adultery — Relations outside of marriage.
 - 3. Uncleaness — Probably homosexuality (cf. Eph. 5:5).
 - 4. Lasciviousness — “To lust, cause lust, show”
 - a. Lascivious dress.
 - b. Lascivious behavior.
 - c. Lascivious entertainment.
- B. Fleshly cults.
 - 1. Idolatry.
 - 2. Witchcraft (sorcery)
- C. Fleshly attitudes (hatred thru envy; cf. v. 26).
- D. Fleshly riotousness (Murder, drunkenness, revelry)

Conclusion:

- A. Are you walking in the Spirit or the flesh?
- B. Why not be led by the Spirit (through the word) to:
 - 1. Obey the truth today?
 - 2. Live in the Spirit today?