

Galatians 5:16-6:2 – The War of the Flesh and Spirit

Introduction:

- Paul is cautioning the Galatian disciples against being turned from a Gospel of Faith to a “gospel of works.” He has contrasted living by faith with living by works.

Walking by the Spirit helps us resist living by the flesh.

- Living by the _____ helps us avoid being controlled by the desires of the _____. (5:16)
- There is a war between the Spirit and the desires of the flesh; if you are walking by the _____, you can not do whatever you please. (5:17)
- This doesn’t mean that you are under the _____ (5:18)

Living by the Flesh brings out:

- **Sins of morality:** immorality, impurity, sensuality (5:19)
- **Sins against God:** idolatry, sorcery (5:20:a)
- **Sins against others:** enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions (5:20b)
- **Bad attitudes toward others:** envyings (5:21a)
- **Self-destructive behavior** (5:21b)

Walking by the Spirit brings out:

- **A God-influenced heart:** unconditional _____ for others, unexplainable _____, peacefulness within and without (5:22a)
- **Godly attitudes** toward others: _____, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness (5:22b-5:23a)
- **Godly control** over one’s own responses to situations and temptation: self-control (5:23b)
- Living by the _____ actually helps you live as though you were obeying the Law.

Results of Walking by the Spirit

- If we have been _____ with Christ, and given new _____ through the Spirit, we should be able to walk by the Spirit. (5:24)
- We should have attitudes of respect, forgiveness, and helpfulness toward each other (5:26-6:1-2)

Group Discussion:

Why can’t living by the Law help bring out the fruit of the Spirit?