

# GALATIANS

## 5:16-26 | STUDY GUIDE

### The Fruit of the Spirit

**GALATIANS 5:16**, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (ESV)

- Spirit vs Flesh
  - The Spirit within us is at war with our sin nature
  - "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." (5:17)
  - We are not the authority ☐ we submit to His authority
- Ecclesiology
  - From Greek ἐκκλησία
  - Who the church is and how it should function
  - Reliant on the Lordship of the Holy Spirit
    - If we live according to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we will produce the fruit of the Holy Spirit (5:22-23)

**GALATIANS 5:19-21**, "Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these..." (ESV)

- Before Paul gives us the Fruit of the Spirit, he calls out the works of the flesh
  - Some of these get easily dismissed– as if there is a sliding scale for sin
  - Paul includes sorcery and orgies in the same list as anger and divisions

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**GALATIANS 5:22-23**, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (ESV)

- Clearly all of these have their opposite in the works of the flesh

- "And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." (5:24)

**GALATIANS 5:25**, "If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." (ESV)

- Though we crucified our flesh with Christ, we are locked in this battle until we finish our race on earth

- This means daily taking up our cross:

- In the words of Jesus, "And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:38, ESV)

- When Jesus said this, the cross was not yet a symbol of hope and redemption

- The cross = death, sin, mortality

- Take = λαμβάνω

- To separate or remove

**GALATIANS 5:26**: "Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another." (ESV)

- This becomes our model for how the church ought to live

- Leadership under the Spirit = Unity

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**: N.T. Wright, *The New Testament In its World*, Craig S. Keener, *Galatians: A Commentary*, Archeological Study Bible