



Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of August 4, 2019

This Week's Focus: The desires of the flesh are extinguished by the power of the Spirit working in us giving us a greater understanding and affection for the gospel and bearing fruit in our lives.

This Week's Text: Galatians 5:16-26

"The Spirit is not a leader like the pace car in the Daytona 500. He is a leader like a locomotive on a train. We do not follow in our strength. We are led by his power. So 'walk by the Spirit' means stay hooked up to the divine source of power and go wherever he leads." **John Piper**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- Share what the Holy Spirit has impressed on your heart and mind from this week's text. How has this passage realigned your thoughts, feelings, and actions with the truth of the gospel?
- What is the inward conflict that Paul is describing in this passage? What is Paul referring to by "the desires flesh" (Ephesians 4:22; Romans 8:5-8)?
- Explain how living in the Spirit is both *active* (verse 16) and *passive* (verse 18). How do we actively "walk in the Spirit"? What is the nature of the sanctifying work of the Spirit and what does it accomplish within us?
- Discuss how living by the Holy Spirit's power combats living *under the law* (Legalism) and *above the law* (Antinomianism)? What is the proper gospel-centered response when we sin and grieve the Holy Spirit?
- What is Paul demonstrating by the laundry list of vices in verses 19-21? Like the law, what is this list meant to reveal about ourselves? What will happen to those who habitually gratify their fleshly desires and refuse to repent of sin?
- Contrast the "works of the flesh" with the fruit of the Spirit? Why do you think Paul begins listing the fruit of the Spirit with love (Galatians 5:13-14; 1 John 4:19)? Looking back over the last several months or years since your conversion, how has the Spirit changed your desires?
- Discuss the already/not yet tension of being free from bondage to sin and yet struggling with the presence of sin. What is the future hope of every person who has been justified by faith alone in Christ alone?
- How does the internal conflict between the flesh and the Spirit cause external conflict with others? How does depending on the Spirit's power and strength for obedience affect how we treat our neighbors (verses 14 and 26)?