

A DIFFERENT KIND OF LIFE Galatians 5:16-26

I don't *like* to preach the same message more than once.

Peter sets a precedent indicating sometimes that's worthwhile.

In 2 Peter, he tells the church he's going to remind us of something we all know, so that after he's gone, we won't forget it.

Gal. 5 presents that kind of message. It's important!

Relates to our experience as we grit our teeth & try harder to do what we're "supposed to" do.

Have you faced discouragement of trying to live a godly life, only to discover you still struggle with sin?

Have you faced discouragement of trusting other Christians, only to discover we let you down?

If you've experienced these, this message is for you!

Applies doctrine about walking with God to show us how to walk daily as God's children.

Explains struggle God's people experience <= even Paul, Rom. 7

Why do we WANT to do right, but blow it so often?

When we're determined to try hard, what happens?!

Gal. 5:16-27

"Walk by the Spirit, & and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, & 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. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, & things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the

fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentle-ness, self-control; against such things there is no law.²⁴ & those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Conflict between flesh & Spirit 16-18 “Walk by the Spirit, & you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, & 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.¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law”

Spiritual life is result of H.S.’ work in us.

When we’re controlled by H.S., we don’t try to satisfy our desires

People miss point because we don’t get what Paul means by “flesh” => sinful nature.

We get it backwards!

"Flesh" => our effort to accomplish *our* purposes.

Our effort—even our best effort—

is never enough to earn salvation, nor to earn God’s approval.

**When controlled by HS,
we don’t have struggle of people who try to live by rules**

Like all people, we want to exert ourselves & triumph

We never reach victory this way.

Victorious life = **different kind of life:** life controlled by H.S.

We experience contin-uous struggle because there’s a battle inside us

What **"I"** am & what **I** do is in constant conflict with H.S.

When *I* do my work,

God can't do His work in me!

Battle arises because flesh wants to do its thing, &

H.S. wants to do *His* work in us!

God's Word & our experience assure us: conflict between our effort & H.S. go on our whole life.

We *never* outgrow it!

WHAT OUR BEST EFFORTS PRODUCE 5:19-21

Negative perspective

–our nature produces its fruit: **19-21** “¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, orgies, & things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

=> **Results are ugly!**

Our best efforts

=> **all kinds of sin:**

1. Sexual sins 19

Adultery, fornication, prostitution,
sexual impurity.

When we try to do it OUR way, our best efforts

=> produce things like that!

Our flesh–our efforts– => sexual sin. That's not all!! = >
having it our way =>

2. Religious sins 20a

Human efforts produce *religious* sin: idolatry, witchcraft

Worship *OUR* way, US instructing God, even worshiping other
gods

3. Social sins 20b-21

(8 out of 15 mentioned)

Majority of sins from our efforts deal with **relationships**:
 Making enemies, disagreements, jealousy, anger, ambition,
 disputes, dissension, factions, envy

These “*little sins*” are part of same list with “*biggies*”

It *ALL* comes from inside us!

Even these “*Little sins*” => prevent entrance into God's kingdom

4. **Party sins** 21b

Our effort=>“party sin”: drunkenness, orgies, carousing

In case misses our problem, adds “things like these”

Result of our effort is opposite of what we want to be.

It's impossible to live godly life

by *my* effort

Anyone **characterized** by such fruit has *no part in God's program*.

Such a person *isn't* saved

Doesn't mean: if you ever commit any of these, you aren't saved!

We *ALL* struggle with these on occasion, when we're controlled by
our efforts—even Paul!

But, this *lifestyle* isn't *normal* for God's children

Our best efforts

produce human fruit

–same results other people's efforts lead to!

–it's never good enough! It's *ugly* stuff!

Our efforts never lead to godly living! –life God approves

What Holy Spirit produces

22-23

Positive perspective

–HS produces *godly* fruit

When we walk by faith,

by power Spirit provides... =>

He produces His fruit 22-23 “*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*”

Partial list; 9 characteristics of people controlled by H.S. which distinguish us from world around us.

1. **LOVE** Not kind world proposes.
Human love based on appearance or merit
 Love God demonstrates,
 doesn't consider merit
 nor appearance
 God's love seeks good of those loved, no matter what it costs.
2. **JOY**
 NOT happiness, not smiles, & laughter.
Joy doesn't depend on external circumstances.
 Most evident when circumstances aren't so good.
3. **PEACE** Internal peace,
 when world's in turmoil.
 Peace God gives doesn't depend on circumstances.
4. **PATIENCE**– "*slow to anger*"
 Puts up with people who're hard to get along with.
5. **KINDNESS**
 Benevolence & mercy united
6. **GOODNESS**
 Recognizes what's good & does it.
7. **FAITHFULNESS**
 –2-edged sword–2 sides of coin.
 Sometimes refers to our **trust** in someone
 Sometimes describes someone **worthy of trust**.
 H.S. produces ability to **trust** God,
 in the midst of hard circumstances.
 H.S. produces a **faithful** person, **worthy of trust**.
8. **GENTLENESS**
 Not weakness=>people walk on
 "*Power under control*"

- capable of giving orders,
but submits to others
- willing to be taught–teachable

9. **SELF-CONTROL**

Self-discipline exercised
by athlete in training.
We discipline selves for battle,
to run race well.

**Summary: “Living this lifestyle never brings us into conflict
with any law—with anyone’s list of rules!”**

Not things rules deal with

Fruit of Spirit

=> ***only God can produce!***

Describes character of Christ

**HOLY SPIRIT
PRODUCES FRUIT IN US,
LIKE THE NATURE OF GOD**

Which of these 2 kinds of fruit is our normal experience?

Who’s in charge?

Am I trying to be in charge?

Don’t try to live this way in our strength!

Don’t make a checklist for us

to try harder to live by!

Fruit *H.S.* produces in us.

Our effort *never* produces it!!!

If we want to be like Christ, but find ourselves more like other
people, problem isn’t solved by *trying harder!*

That effort just produces more human fruit.

=> Exhortation to live by the Spirit 24-26

*“²⁴ & those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with
its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep*

in step with the Spirit. ²⁶*Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."*

Spiritual life not trying to do it ourselves!

People who trust Christ stop struggling to save selves.

We realize our efforts never enough to save us!

We have life through the Spirit.

Same principle applies to daily living.

We don't walk by our efforts either!

Getting *passionate* about godly living
doesn't give us power to do it!

We have life by H.S.

-therefore we walk by H.S.

-through *His* strength & *His* control

If we *live* by Him-If that's where our *LIFE* comes from,
we should *walk* that way!

Spiritual life eliminates boasting—spiritual superiority

We have no basis to brag about how we live!

Paul urges: choose way of faith, by power of H.S.

Ability to walk that way comes from *God*, *NOT* from us!

PAUL'S MAIN IDEA:

1. By our effort, we produce fruit that can never please God

It can't save me, *nor* can it make me godly!

2. Our salvation & daily walk with God are work of God's Spirit who lives in us 22-23

3. Our salvation & daily walk with God are never produced by our efforts in our strength 25

If H.S. doesn't control our life,
we'll *never* satisfy God's desire
for His followers.

How should this truth affect our life?

***Ability to walk with God
comes from H.S.,
not from our best efforts!***

I've seen churches try to please God by *our* effort.
Result: 400 people fight among selves over *how* to do it.

What's the problem?

Paul shares his struggle with the flesh in Romans 7.

Consider *his* testimony.

How does it compare with ours?

How do WE try to make it work?

Angry people—"I know my anger's wrong.

I'm going to stop being angry with my wife or kids!"

So we grit our teeth—we're *not* going there!

Next night, we come home from work –someone says wrong thing –we fly off the handle again!

What went wrong?

We're still trying to do it ourselves!

Until we realize *WE* can't pull it off, we'll never ask God to change us from inside—produce HIS fruit in us—that's work of the Spirit.

Self-centered people—concerned about having *MY* needs met. I realize my attitude's wrong.

I'm going to do better!

"I'm going to start thinking about wife, meet *her* needs!"

"I'm going to pay more attention to kids, what they need

Next day I come home tired—I just want to read paper & watch Monday Night Football –Basketball playoffs...

"Can't guy have little peace & quiet?!!"

Oops! I'm thinking about myself again!

How can I get my mind off self & MY desires?

Only God's Spirit can produce that attitude in me!

I have to trust Him to change me

–I'll never do it myself!

Other temptations–whatever *OURS* may be–

We NEVER overcome them...

...gritting our teeth & resolving to do better next time!

Ability to walk with God

–to be what God wants us to be–

comes from Spirit of God,

NOT from our efforts

–even our best efforts!