

## OUTLINE FOR GALATIANS 5:16-23

### 1. **If we walk by the Spirit, then we will walk in the freedom for which Christ set us free, 5:16-21.**

#### A. **If you walk by the Spirit, you will walk in a way contrary to your natural, human desires, 5:15-17.**

- Your natural desires will no longer be the source, or the focal point, of your pleasure and satisfaction.
- Walking by the Spirit shifts the focal point of your pleasure and satisfaction because now the direction of your life opposes the self-centered, myopic (near-sighted, short-sighted) direction of the person who seeks their gratification in this world.
- (Romans 8:5–6 ESV) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

#### B. **If you walk by the Spirit, then you will be led by the Spirit and out from under the law, 5:18.**

- Walking by the Spirit, you are now led by the Spirit, and you are out from under the unbearable, defeating psychological, mental, spiritual and emotional burden of pleasing God and earning his acceptance by your morality. You are also out from under

the burden of pleasing your peers with whatever they have contrived as an acceptable standard of morality. In other words you are out from under the pressure of legalism in whatever form it has morphed into. Walking by the Spirit you live your life before God.

#### • **Two Choices in Approach ...**

- We work: We do it. We pursue happiness and fulfillment as we see fit.
- God works: The Spirit does it. We walk by the Spirit, and walking by the Spirit we are led by the Spirit and away from a self-directed, performance-based spirituality (out from under the law) to a grace-based spirituality.

### 2. **If we do not walk by the Spirit, then we will not be led by the Spirit, and we will live as slaves, and our sinful desires will be evident, 5:19-21.**

- If you are following your natural (sinful) desires, then your behavior (your acts, works, deeds) will expose you as a person who is serving himself.

### 3. **But if you walk by the Spirit, you will be led by the Spirit, and the Spirit will produce his fruit in your life, 5:22-23.**

- The fruit of the Spirit is the work of

God in your life.

- Since this fruit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control—is the work of God, then we must allow God to define the terms and establish his pattern and priorities.

#### **Beginning with love ...**

##### THE SOURCE OF THIS LOVE ...

#### 1. **God. This love from beginning to end is all about God.**

- (1 John 4:19 ESV) We love because he first loved us.
- (John 3:16 ESV) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

#### 2. **The character of God.**

- (1 John 4:8 ESV) Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.
- (1 John 4:16 ESV)

#### 3. **The commandment of God.**

- (Galatians 5:13), (Matthew 22:35–40)
- (John 13:34 ESV) A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.
- (John 15:12–17 ESV) This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

- (1 John 3:23 ESV) And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
- (2 John 5 ESV) And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another.

##### THE NATURE—THE BASIC QUALITY AND CHARACTER—OF THIS LOVE ...

- (1 Corinthians 13:4–8 ESV) Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.
- (1 Corinthians 13:13 ESV) So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.