

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

Jesus + _____ = Salvation?

July 2012

Lesson #13 - Galatians – Spirit Led

INTRODUCTION

What has been the greatest help to you in learning to live the Christian life?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Gal 5:16-26

Note: Some scholars think this is a key set of scriptures for understanding the Gospel... that it offers not just forgiveness of sins but a new life lived by faith.

1. What would happen if the Galatians lived by the power of the Holy Spirit? V 16
2. What is the conflict between the sinful nature and the Spirit? V 17 Rom 7:14-25 How did it affect them? What is our role in this conflict?
3. What are some of the sins that the sinful nature produces? Vv 19-21 What role does the mind have in these offenses? 1 Cor 10:13 Should we be behavioral fruit inspectors?
4. What warning is given to those who live sinful lives? V 21 Does this imply that if bad works keep us out of heaven that good works must get us in?
5. What is the result of yielding to (being under control of) the Spirit? Vv 22-23 Why does it say fruit instead of fruits? How are these more character traits than actions? Should *all* Christians have *all* of them?
6. What is the relationship between external behavior and internal purity? Matt 6:24
7. How is a Christian empowered to live by the Spirit? Vv 24-25 John 15:4 Why is it so hard?
8. What is the relationship between faith and the Holy Spirit when seeking victory over the sinful nature? Heb 11:6
9. How might living a good life lead to conceit? V 26

APPLICATION

- What can you do this week to nurture the character of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- What part of your sinful nature has so entangled you that you need to turn it over to the “professional” – the Holy Spirit? Matt 23:26

In Burwell, Nebraska there was a lovely apple tree in the back yard. It bloomed beautifully in the spring, but there was a problem with this tree... not really with the tree itself. There was a problem with where it was planted. The neighbors had a red cedar tree. When apple trees and cedar trees are planted near one another they are subject to a disease cycle known as cedar apple rust. So every year the fruit of this apple tree was infected with brown rot, and the cedar tree was infected with slimy orange cankers. The funny thing about cedar apple rust is that neither tree can remain infected year after year without the other. The point is you can't have both. If you want apples don't plant red cedar and if you want red cedar don't plant apples. Paul makes the same point here about spiritual fruit. The life lived by the Spirit, doesn't cooperate with the desires of the sinful nature. They can't peacefully coexist. When a person puts their faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in their life. He convicts of sin and you can't be satisfied in that way of life anymore. On the other hand when you haven't put your trust in Christ, when you're trying to earn God's favor on your own, it's hard to maintain the outward facade of Christianity.

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