

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for June 8, 2008

Righteousness Directed By The Spirit
Galatians 5:16-26
Gerry Andersen

As God the Father takes the primary role in our creation, and as God the Son takes the primary role in our salvation, so God the Holy Spirit takes the primary role in our sanctification.

1. The desire of the flesh (5:16-18)

The flesh and the Spirit battle within every believer in Christ.

In verse 16, Paul emphasizes that those who walk by the Spirit will not carry out the desires of the flesh.

Walking by the Spirit requires:

- Having the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- The Spirit having you (Eph. 5:18-21; cf. Col. 3:16)

We are not under the Law because only the Spirit can overcome the desire of the flesh.

2. The deeds of the flesh (5:19-21)

- a. The deeds of the flesh are manifest
- b. The deeds of the flesh are many
- c. The deeds of the flesh multiply

Immoral acts (immorality) lead to immoral living (sensuality).

Anger leads to disagreements, which leads to division.

We don't just want what they have (jealousy), but we don't even want them to have it (envy).

3. The fruit of the Spirit (5:22-24)

- a. The Spirit demonstrated

While the deeds of the flesh are plural, the fruit of the Spirit is singular.

b. The law denied

No law is required against spiritual fruit.

c. The flesh is dead

This allusion to the crucifixion of Christ is the key to unleashing the power of the Spirit.

4. The following of the Spirit (5:25-26)

The method of justification determines the method of sanctification.

“Walk” in 5:25 is a different Greek word than “walk” in 5:16 and signifies walking in line behind others.

While we follow the Holy Spirit, our following is done in conjunction with fellow believers.

The evidence of our following of the Holy Spirit is seen in our relationship with others.

The contrast to following the Holy Spirit is an exalted view of ourselves.

When we think too highly of ourselves we demonstrate this by provoking others and by resentment of others.

The only path to freedom from the deeds of the flesh is through yielding to the Holy Spirit.