

Reflection Questions

Doctrine (What does this passage teach us):

How is belonging to Christ similar to union with Christ?

Reproof (What wrong thinking does this passage expose):

What is a natural response to being made alive by the Spirit?

Correction (How does this passage fix wrong thinking):

What does it mean to crucify the flesh?

Instruction in Righteousness (How does this passage help us to continue):

What are some practical ways that we can live in dependence on the Holy Spirit tomorrow?

Calvary Baptist Church

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Making Disciples for the Glory of God

Order of Service

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 19:1-6

Song #197 ~ The Power of the Cross

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Genesis 31:1-55

Song #242 ~ Come, Ye Sinners

Scripture Reading: Genesis 32:1-32

Prayer

Sermon ~ Galatians 5:24-26

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Song #214 ~ Jesus, Thank You

Galatians 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brethren, only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

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Text: Galatians 5:24-26

Theme: Justification and sanctification are by faith apart from the works of the Law (Gal. 3:3).

Introduction: If the flesh, with its passions and desires have been crucified, then why do I still struggle with sin? Although Paul doesn't directly answer this question here, he does tell us that those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh.

I. Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh (24-26).

A. When did we crucify our fleshly desires (24)?

Explanation: Not everyone has crucified the flesh, only those who belong to Him (24). But when did this event happen? Paul has already told us that *we* have been crucified with Christ (2:20). But in Romans 6:6, Paul clarifies by stating that the *old man* has been crucified with Christ. Therefore, our fleshly passions and desires were crucified with Christ when *He* was crucified. Even though these fleshly desires were crucified with Christ, it was not realized for us until salvation.

Explanation: Instead of the passive voice (i.e. have been crucified; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 6:6) Paul switches to the active voice (i.e. they have crucified). Clearly, we have been crucified with Christ, but we participate in putting those fleshly desires to death.

Application: One way that we put those fleshly desires to death is by not making provision for the flesh (Rom. 13:14). Stop giving yourself opportunities to satisfy the desires of the flesh.

B. Walk according to the Spirit (25).

1. Do you live by the Spirit?

Explanation: Instead of assuming that these Galatians live by (i.e. made alive by; cf. Rom. 1:18) the Spirit, he poses it as a question—"if you live by the Spirit?".

Application: Many who attend church weekly assume that they are genuine believers. But instead of assuming, Paul poses it as a question. Have you paused to consider whether you truly have the Holy Spirit dwelling within you? There will be many on the last day who will spend eternity in hell because they did not pause to consider whether they have been born again.

2. If you live by the Spirit then walk according to the Spirit (25).

Explanation: To walk according to the Spirit, must be different than to live by the Spirit. But what does it mean to "walk according to the Spirit"? Paul uses this unique word for "walk" in Romans 4:12 to refer to walking according to the steps of Abraham (i.e. walking by faith). So, to walk according to the Spirit refers to our day-to-day living—walk in step with the Spirit.

3. What does it look like to walk in step with the Spirit (26)?

Explanation: To walk according to the Spirit is to walk in humility. We walk in humility by not challenging others or by being envious. Perhaps Paul is referencing both the strong (the ones challenging) and the weak (the ones who are envious).

Application: You claim to be made alive by the Spirit, but are you walking in step with the Spirit? This is most obvious in the home. To walk according to the Spirit is walking in humility towards your spouse and children. Specifically, we do this by viewing others as more important than ourselves (Phil. 2:3).

Conclusion: Throughout this chapter, Paul has been encouraging us to walk by the Spirit, be lead by the Spirit, and to walk in accordance to the Spirit. These all require us to live in dependence on the Holy Spirit. Tomorrow morning, take a moment before your day starts and call out to God and ask for His help.