

The One True Gospel

Galatians 5:16-18

Walk by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-18 (CSB)

¹⁶I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit desires what is against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you don't do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

There is a massive difference between walking by the Spirit and carrying out the desires of the flesh. Paul will really draw out the differences in verses 19-26.

Before we get too far into this section of Scripture, let's make sure we are on the same page as Paul with what "walking by the Spirit" means.

The Holy Spirit is probably the most misunderstood Person of the Trinity. A lot of cults have been started under the "direction" of the Holy Spirit. To clarify what Scripture teaches us about the Holy Spirit we are going to answer a few questions.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a Person of the Godhead. He is not a mystical force, a source of power, an essence and certainly not an "it". Therefore, being a Person of the Godhead, He is eternal and He is sovereign.

Acts 5:3-4; Psalm 139:7-8; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16; John 1:1-5; Genesis 1:2; 1 Cor. 8:6; John 1:1-5

The Spirit thinks and knows (1 Cor. 2:10), can be grieved (Eph. 4:30), intercedes for us (Rom. 8:26-27; 34), makes sovereign decisions (1 Cor. 12:7-11).

Who is the Holy Spirit? He is a Person of the Godhead. Equal in glory and equally deserving of worship.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ What is it important to understand who the Holy Spirit is?
- ❖ How does Scripture describe the Holy Spirit?

How did the Holy Spirit work in unison with the Father and Son in the gospel?

As a Person in the Godhead, the Holy Spirit played and is playing a vital role in the gospel.

Rom. 8:11; 1 Peter 3:18 (Father Gal. 1:1; Son John 2:19; 10:18)

Leads us to Christ. John 15:26-27; Seals us in Christ. 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14

Sent by the Father and the Son. John 14:26; John 15:26

Baptizes us into the body of Christ. 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Rom. 6:1-4; Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:12

How did the Holy Spirit work in unison with the Father and Son in the gospel? *"The Spirit applies to the church what Christ has accomplished for the church. Salvation is purposed by the Father, accomplished by the Son, and applied by the Holy Spirit."* – David Garner

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Describe the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
- ❖ What does Scripture teach about how the Father, Son and Holy Spirit work together in the gospel?

What role does the Holy Spirit play in the believer's life?

Guides. John 16:13-15; Comforter, Helper, Counselor. John 14:16-24; 15:26; Convicts. John 16:7-11

Indwells. Rom. 8:9-11; Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Cor. 6:19; Brings Scripture to remembrance. John 14:26

Gives gifts. Heb. 2:4; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; Causes us to bear fruit. Gal. 5:22-24

Discussion Question:

- ❖ Biblically speaking, what role does the Holy Spirit play in the believers life?

Walk by the Spirit

Truth and lies are opposites. Just as we are taught in Galatians 5:16-18, the Spirit and the flesh are opposites.

Who the Holy Spirit is, what He accomplishes in the gospel and what role He plays in the life of the believer...shapes our understanding of what it means to walk by the Spirit. To live according to the Spirit rather than the flesh.

When we walk by the Spirit we are:

- (1) Being guided by the Word of God.
- (2) Being shaped by the Word of God.
- (3) Living out the Word of God.

When we walk by the flesh we are:

- (1) Being guided by our logic.
- (2) Being shaped by our wants.
- (3) Living out our personal desires.

Just as salvation is a work of God, so is our sanctification. We are unable to yearn salvation within ourselves, and likewise we are unable to live a life for the glory of God within ourselves. Walking and being led by the Spirit is necessary for the believer. Therefore, walk by the Spirit is not a suggestion...it is a command.

Walking by the Spirit is literally being sanctified by the truth. We must passionately pursue the truth. And we are clearly taught in John 17:17 that God's Word is truth. Walking by the Spirit is directly tied to the Word of God.

Discussion Question:

- ❖ What is the connection between walking by the Spirit and being obedient to the Word of God?