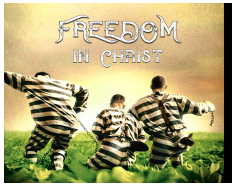
Keeping Step with the Spirit



Life lesson in the book of Galatians

Paul describes living by the spirit as a choice.... Living "by the spirit" means that we submit to his authority, welcome his guidance, except his correction, live under his restraint, rely on his power, and allow him to unify us with other believers. - Life Application Commentary: Galatians pg.179

Life in the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21)

Sexual sins: immorality, impurity, debauchery; idolatry & witchcraft

Relational Sins: hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy;

Indulgent Sins: drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

Life in the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)

the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.

N.T. Wright says of the Spirit driven life, "A community that behaves like this, both internally and with outsiders will be inherently attractive!" -Galatians, pg.338

"the spirit is meant to have the same power over us as a pilot has over his ship or a charioteer over his horse." -J.Chrysostom Homily - Rom.14

Paul speaks of these qualities as "fruits"... there is a tendency in our modern world to suppose that they happen "naturally", in other words, that people should just want to be like that and shouldn't have to try too hard.... however a fruit tree needs to be planted and watered, tended and pruned, protected against the elements and various kinds of disease, and defended against attack from predators both animal and organic.***These qualities are, things you have to think through, work at, cultivate and practice.*** -N.T. Wright, Galatians pg.337-338

1. How Can I "Keep In Step" with the Spirit?

1. Saturate you mind & heart in the Bible. Deut. 5:33; Josh. 1:8-9; 1Kings 11:38; Rom.12:1-2; Psalm 119
2. Connect with God throughout the day. 1 Thes. 5:16-17
3. Accountable Community Acts 2:42-47 Heb. 10:25

Community Group Questions:

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?

2. Galatians 2:21 Paul says that people who gratify the desires of the flesh, "will not inherit the kingdom of God". What's he mean by "kingdom of God"?

3. Thinking about this last week, where do you see God at work in your life growing or challenging you to walking with His Spirit?

Notes: