

I. Galatians Argues That We are Justified by Faith Apart From any Performance

A. Problem of “flesh” in man

1. Flesh is the tendency away from God
2. Flesh is the tendency to make myself the center of all things
3. Flesh is not my lower nature – It is my nature (Romans 7:18)

B. But unless we are delivered from our sinful tendencies we are never free to live

C. Answer is in the new life of Christ

1. Galatians 5:5-6
2. “Flesh” still opposes that
3. Paul in Galatians 5:16-25 describes how the Spirit of God works to bring us to freedom

II. Four Pictures of the Spirit’s Work

A. Galatians 5:16 - *Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh*

1. The Spirit of God opposes our flesh
2. Flesh is still a very real part of the Christian’s experience
3. When the Spirit works in my day to day experiences I am delivered from the strong pull of flesh

B. Galatians 5:18 – *But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the Law*

1. This is not an issue of guidance but deliverance
2. Led – as if a blind man is taken by the hand and escorted to a place
3. Denotes walking together not just being given directions
4. The Spirit will lead you to Christ

C. Galatians 5:22 – *But the fruit of the Spirit is...*

1. Contrast our natures working and His nature causing fruit
 - a. Activity of the sinful nature
 - b. Fruit of the Spirit's work
2. Because the fruit is in accord with the desires of the new life, those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh
 - a. They have entered into a decisive opposition to flesh
 - b. They have come to a decisive dependence on Christ

D. Galatians 5:25 – *If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit*

1. Walk is different here than in verse 16
2. Walk means
 - a. Make progress to a goal
 - b. To get in step with
 - (1) Generally implies a rhythm being set
3. Everyone is in step with something

III. What is the Spirit doing?

- A. Teaching us the Word of God
- B. Using that Word to point us to Christ
- C. Calling us to exercise faith
- D. Ultimately this leads to a life of love
 1. For Christ
 2. For others