

## Galatians 5:22-6:5 – Fruit of the Spirit

For those who are in Christ, there is a constant battle between the flesh and the Spirit. This battle continues until the day we die. Our old nature and our new nature are in opposition to each other. When we walk by the Spirit, our old nature opposes us. When we give in to our old nature, the Spirit opposes us. Galatians 5:19-21 listed some works of the flesh. These works of the flesh flow out of the old nature. The works of the flesh do not characterize those who are children of God. Now, in contrast to the works of the flesh we will look at the fruit of the Spirit.

### **Read Galatians 5:22-26.**

How is the fruit of the Spirit different from the gifts of the Spirit? Should believers in Christ exhibit some or all of the fruit of the Spirit? Why is love first in the list? (5:22)

What is joy? Does it mean feeling happy and upbeat all the time? How are we able to rejoice always? See Philippians 4:4-7. What is the source of our peace? See Romans 5:1. Is this peace with God or peace with those around us or both? (Galatians 5:22)

How do patience, kindness and goodness affect a person's interactions with others? (5:22)

Why is faithfulness important? Is gentleness a sign of weakness? Self-control was a word used of controlling sexual desires. See 1 Corinthians 7:8-9. It can also refer to self-control in other areas of life. (5:22-23)

What does Paul mean by "against such things there is no law"? (5:23)

In verse 24, the reason why those who belong to Christ Jesus are not characterized by the works of the flesh is that they have "crucified the flesh with its passions and desires". In 2:20, Paul said "I have been crucified with Christ." What does it mean to crucify the flesh with its passions and desires?

Verse 25 reminds us of Paul's question in 3:3, "Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?" ESV. In 5:16, Paul exhorted the Galatians to "walk by the Spirit". In verse 25, Paul used a different word for "walk". The word here could be translated "follow" the Spirit or "walk by rule of" the Spirit. How do verses 22-25 argue against the charge that justification by faith alone, in Christ alone will lead to sinful and loose living?

In verse 26, Paul probably didn't pull these three prohibitions out of thin air? What was happening in the Galatian churches? Why do you think it was happening?

**Read Galatians 6:1-5.**

What is the situation described in verse 1? Who is to take action? What is the goal of the action? How is the action to be performed? What warning is given to those who restore a brother who has sinned? (6:1)

When someone is found to have sinned, does it need to go beyond the offender and offended parties? See Matthew 18:15-20.

In what ways can we bear one another's burdens? What is the "law of Christ"? (6:2)

What is the remedy for thinking we are something when we are nothing? See Titus 1:10 for another example of those who are deceivers. (6:3)

How should we test our own work? What happens when we compare our works to others? What should be the basis for our boasting? (6:4)

How is the "load" of verse 5 different from the "burden" of verse 2? What does it mean that each of us need to bear our own load? (6:5)