

Now What?

Learning to Love without Compromising Truth

(Reflections from the message on Sunday – June 5, 2016)

Walk With God – everywhere, all the time.

*16 So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives.
Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.*

Galatians 5:16 NLT

We are living in a condition that only has one cure – death!

Our mortal life is in the clutches of a nature that is constantly in battle with the desires of God. We are faced with a just punishment because of our inherited sin condition and the only hope we have rests in the ultimate judge – Jesus Christ.

We have lived under the constant reminder of the law of how unable, unloving and unworthy we are because we cannot live to the standard of righteousness. The law is good in that it demonstrates the standard of living that is desirable. But it has become the finger pointer of blame; the school master of discipline and until Jesus' act of love, standing in our place of guilt, we have had no advocate for our desire to be with God and live a life worthy of a relationship with Him. Thanks to God's gracious act of forgiveness through Christ Jesus we are free from the law, and are loved as children of God through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

So, to love others without compromising truth we are commanded to be like Jesus – not counting the sins of others against them but to love them anyway. Let's explore **Galatians 5:16-26** to see just how we can help people see us as the Lord sees them.

1. The first command is to let the Spirit guide us (v. 16). What happens when we let down our spiritual guard (vv. 16-17)?
2. Describe freedom when we are directed by the spirit (v. 18; also refer to **Galatians 5:1; Romans 6:14; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 3:22**)?

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3. Look through the description of our sinful desires that come natural to us in verses 19-21. What are your thoughts regarding the nature of our world or the tendencies that we all fight against?
4. Communities of faith, as seen by those looking in, are to be difference makers (Matthew 5:13). Go ahead and list the description of how the Holy Spirit shows Himself through our lives – the “fruit” of a believer (**Galatians 5:22-23**):
5. What is meant by the last sentence, “*There is no law against these things!*”?

Write down those “tendencies” that you fight in your sin nature. Now take the teaching in verses 24-26 and own it for yourself.

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to His cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.”