

7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. 11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.

12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves! 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. 16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.

I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, selfcontrol; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

#### The Point

Living by the Spirit leads to the cultivation of the fruit of the Spirit instead of giving in to sinful actions.



## Walking in Freedom

- Requires an honest look at your life
- Hindrances to a relationship with Jesus?
  - Rebellion Bad actions
  - Religion (Legalism)
    - Bad thoughts
    - I am not good enough
    - Ruins the Church & us

## Walking in Freedom

- Freedom is not a license to sin I am not Lord of my life
- Progressive sanctification Eventually we will be free from the presence of sin in our lives
- We are called to
  - Love God & our neighbor
  - Stand up to evil Righteous anger



## Walk in the Spirit

- Back to basics Saved to good works not by good works
- Follow Jesus One step at a time
- War between the Spirit of God & our flesh "What is wrong with me?" (Romans 7)
- "Whatever we feed controls us"
- "Beach ball theology" Jesus lets the air out of the ball

## Walk in the Spirit

- The power of God's grace changes us by overcoming the power of sin
- Matt Chandler
  - Fix our eyes upon Jesus (vivification) stirs affection toward Jesus
  - Lay aside everything that "shrinks our heart for the Lord"
  - Don't try to tame sin
    - Petty zoo story
    - "Put down sin before it puts you down"



#### Bear the Fruit of the Spirit

- Produced from the inside out
- Infinitely greater than spiritual gifts
- Abide in Jesus & His Word Vine & branches
- He will get rid of branches that don't produce fruit

#### **Discussion Questions**

- Examine your actions and motivations. Are they driven by the flesh or by the Spirit?
- What hinders you in your relationship with Jesus?
- What do you need to cast out of your life?
- Are you displaying the fruit of the Spirit? Which areas need growth?
- What is your next step to abide in Christ?