

April 3, 2011

Willow Park South Small Group Questions

“A Call To Action”
Galatians 5:16-26

- Please read Galatians 5:16-26 together at the beginning of your meeting.

Paul writes to the Galatians concerning the conflict of desires that are within each one of us. Walking through these verses, there are four questions which we need to ask about these two opposing desires.

1. What are the two desires?

Paul says in vs. 17 that within each of us there is the conflict between the desires of the **flesh** and the desires of the **Spirit**.

What is the list of actions which Paul says flows from desiring the flesh?

- Why do you think Paul places such common sins as jealousy or envy in the same list as seemingly more prominent sins as sexual immorality or drunkenness?

What is the list of the fruit which comes out of desiring the Spirit?

- Are any of these attributes harder for you to obtain than others?
- Does the Holy Spirit give us all these attributes at once when we first become a Christian? How long does the Spirit work in us to bring about these attributes?

Who sends the Spirit to work in us? Whose life do we reflect as we grow in the fruits of the Spirit?

- **John 16:13-15 (ESV)** “[13] When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. [14] He will glorify me [Jesus], for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. [15] All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

2. What do we really want?

Paul writes in Galatians 5:17, *“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.”*

For those who do not have a genuine faith in Jesus Christ, why does the Christian life seem so undesirable?

- **Romans 8:7 (ESV)** *“For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot.”*

As you have grown in your faith in Christ, how have your desires changed? Do you now desire to “live according to the flesh”? Why not?

- **Romans 8:5 (ESV)** *“For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.”*

3. How do we receive what we really want?

Galatians 5:25 gives an answer stating, *“If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”* Walking by the Spirit implies action on our part.

What actions need to take place when we fall out of alignment with the Spirit?

- Jesus says in **Matthew 3:8 (ESV)** *“Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.”*

How does staying conscious of our walk with Christ keep us close in line with the fruits of the Spirit?

4. What does any of this have to do with our church community?

As a community of believers we are to help each other keep in step with the Spirit and to lead others into a Spirit led walk with Christ. We want to achieve this by creating:

1. Purposeful Gatherings

- Meetings which are aimed ultimately to glorify Christ.

2. Significant Relationships

- Build relationships where we are able to keep each other accountable in our walk with Christ.

3. Life Mission

- We need to seek to bring others into a genuine faith in Jesus Christ.

Discuss how your small group can create opportunities to be missional in the community.