

WALKING BY MEANS OF THE SPIRIT

(Galatians 5:16-18)

I. PAUL DEFENDS HIS AUTHORITY AND THE ORIGINATION OF HIS GOSPEL (Gal. 1 & 2)

II. PAUL DEFENDS JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH (Gal. 3 & 4)

III. PAUL DEFENDS CHRISTIAN LIBERTY AND LIVING BY GRACE (Gal. 5 & 6)

A. You are to STAND FAST in Grace against LEGALISM (5:1-12)

B. You are to STAND FIRM in Liberty against LICENSE (5:13-26)

1. A believer's liberty in grace encourages a daily walk by faith in Jesus Christ by means of the Holy Spirit (5:16-18)

a. The COMMAND... "I say then: walk in the Spirit..." (5:16a)

1) This involves a step by step _____ on the Lord.

* What does the preposition "*in the Spirit*" mean?

* What does "*in the Spirit*" not mean?

* How often is this to be done?

2) This _____ implies _____ in the Christian life.

* Is this really an absolute necessity?

b. The GUARANTEE... "and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (5:16b)

1) The verb "*lust*" (*epithumia*) simply means a strong _____, and it can have a good sense (Philip 1:23; 1 Thes 2:17) or a bad sense to the word, depending on its use in the _____.

2) The word “not” (*ou me*) is a double negative in the Greek, making this an _____.

3) The term “flesh” (*sarx*) occurs _____ times in Paul’s writings and it can refer to either the _____ body (1 Cor. 15:39) or our totally depraved _____ nature inherited from Adam (Rom. 7:18).

* In regards to the “lust of the flesh,” what is this verse not saying?

c. The CONTINUOUS CONFLICT... *For the flesh LUSTS AGAINST the Spirit, and the Spirit AGAINST the flesh; and these are CONTRARY to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.*” (5:17)

1) This verse describes the believer’s greatest spiritual _____ which is his/her own sinful flesh, but thankfully it also underscores the believer’s greatest _____ who is the permanent resident, the Holy Spirit.

2) What is alarming about the present tense of the verb “lusts” is that this means this is a _____ that is _____ daily.

* What does this result in?

d. The CONCLUSION... *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.* (5:18)

1) Your daily walk of faith by the Spirit revolves around who you are _____ or _____ at any given point of time.

2) A truly holy life is produced via the leading and empowering of the _____, not by efforts to try and keep the _____. (5:18)

* How can you apply this truth today?