

## Study: Galatians 5:13-26

If you had to choose one word to summarize all of God's commands, which one would you pick?

Galatians 5:13-15

*<sup>13</sup> You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. <sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.*

Why do you think Jesus talks about loving your neighbor all the time?

- What is He trying to highlight?

Why do we feel like we need to look out for "#1", or love and protect ourselves first, rather than naturally serving our neighbors?

Verses 14-15 talk about two options: we will either serve each other or we will destroy each other. What are ways you can still consume and destroy your neighbor even if it's not as obvious as "biting and devouring"?

What did it look like for Jesus to put others before Himself?

- How can we as a small group be sincerely serving and loving of each other and those in our community?

#### Galatians 5:16-21

*<sup>16</sup> So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.<sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

*<sup>19</sup> The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;  
<sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

What makes the “acts of the flesh” obvious?

How do we make sense of the conflict between fleshly desires and the Spirit within us?

- What are some other passages of Scripture that talk about the flesh leading to destruction and the Spirit leading to life?
- What additional insights do they offer?

#### Galatians 5:22-26

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

<sup>24</sup> *Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.* <sup>25</sup> *Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

<sup>26</sup> *Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

The Flesh	The Spirit

- *Look up definitions for any words you don't know (e.g. dissensions).*
- *Discuss any common themes you find in the lists.*
- *Discuss anything that stands out as significant.*

What does it mean to walk with and be led by the Spirit?

How do we "crucify" (i.e. overcome, put to death) the flesh?

How do we become more fruitful?

What is our community application of this passage?