

ONLY ONE GOSPEL – EXPLORING GALATIANS

Talk 7 – Gal 5:13-26 – So we are not under law

Small group questions

Leaders – Choose *some* from the following. Don't feel the need to work through each one!

If the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer,
please contact bishop@bathurstanglican.org.au

Can you share an example of a time when you had to choose between doing something you really wanted to do and doing something you knew was the right thing to do? What was that experience like for you?

Read Galatians 5:13-26.

The 'problem' with freedom

1. In what ways does the freedom we have in Christ reveal the true nature of our hearts?
2. Reflecting on the sermon and passage, are you able to share some specific areas in your life where you find it most challenging to align your desires with God's way? How do you typically respond in those situations?
3. Mark said, 'sometimes we take up the battle and win, and sometimes we don't have what it takes, and we lose'. Discuss.

The answer

4. How does serving one another in love help us overcome the desires of the flesh?
5. What does it mean to 'walk by the Spirit' in practical terms?
6. How did Mark's comment that 'there is no situation where we cannot say NO to sin' impact you? On what basis did he make that claim? (See p3 of the sermon.)

The ugly

7. What is your response to the list of vv19-21?
8. What is your tactical response when hit by any of these desires?

The beautiful

9. Why did Mark say that going to work on one aspect of this fruit (because you feel you are lacking in that area), is exactly the opposite of what Paul is saying? What alternate action would match what the passage is teaching?
10. How can you cultivate a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit to see more of this fruit in your life?

The answer (again)

11. What does it mean to 'keep in step with the Spirit'? What steps can you take this week to walk more closely with the Spirit and allow Him to transform your desires?
12. Have you seen your desires change as you grow closer to God?
13. How can we encourage each other to desire the beauty of a godly life over the ugliness of the flesh?

Prayer idea: Heavenly Father, we ask that you would kindle a fire of desire in our hearts, that we might increasingly long for you and your beauty. May our love for you grow stronger every day, and may our desires be transformed to align with yours. We pray that you would stir up in us a deeper hunger for your presence, that we might know the joy of being satisfied in you alone. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Brief Notes for Leaders:

- Encourage honest sharing and vulnerability in the group.
- Use the questions to guide the discussion, but feel free to skip or modify them as needed.
- Focus on facilitating a conversation that applies the sermon's principles to everyday life.
- Be prepared to share your own experiences and insights to help stimulate discussion.
- Encourage group members to support and encourage each other in their struggles and triumphs.
- Use the prayer idea provided to close the meeting, or adapt it to fit the group's needs.

Some specific points to consider:

- Question 2: Encourage group members to share specific areas where they struggle with aligning their desires with God's way. This can help build empathy and understanding within the group.
- Question 5: Help the group understand what "walking by the Spirit" means in practical terms, such as seeking guidance through prayer and scripture reading.
- Question 8: Encourage group members to share their personal tactics for resisting sinful desires, and offer support and suggestions where needed.
- Question 9: Clarify that focusing on individual aspects of the fruit of the Spirit (e.g., kindness, patience) is not the main point; rather, it's about cultivating a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- Question 12: Encourage group members to share testimonies of how their desires have changed as they grew closer to God.
- Question 13: Discuss ways the group can support each other in desiring a godly life, such as accountability, prayer, and encouragement.