

Heart Check

3-4-18

Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

This is a fitting statement to wrap up Paul's explanation of the Holy Spirit. But, how do we, ourselves, know when we are out of step with the Spirit? God encourages us to make a heart check.

Galatians 5:19–21 (ESV)

Now the works of the flesh are evident:

The things that indicate that we are out of step with the Spirit are discernable and obvious! For our guidance, God provides a list in verses 19-21: Sexual immorality, moral impurity, sensuality – being lewd, idolatry - worshipping anything other than God, sorcery – this is from the original Greek word where we get the English word “pharmacy” which primarily signified “the use of drugs”, hatred, contentious, jealousy, fits of rage, self seeking ambition, causing division, heresy, envy, habitual intoxication, orgies, plus similar behavior.

This list ends with a warning:

Galatians 5:21, “Those who habitually practice such things will not inherit God's kingdom.”

This has nothing to do with our salvation. We cannot lose our salvation.

However, these lifestyles are totally inconsistent with God and not present in HIS eternal Kingdom. **Therefore, we need a heart check.** Why would we be **motivated** to behave this way? Why would we want to be **under** such a person's influence?

However – in contrast – The fruit of the Spirit is likewise clearly observable!

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,

We have just looked at the “works” of the flesh. Here we see the fruit of the Spirit. This is not human works, but the outflow of the Holy Spirit residing inside us. We must recall a previous verse to see the importance of engaging the Holy Spirit:

Galatians 5:16 (ESV)

But I say, **be occupied with** the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Meaning when you are “occupied with” the Spirit you will not do verses 19-21, the works of the flesh!

How do we know when we are in step with the Holy Spirit? **Therefore, we need a heart check.**

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is

When we engage the Holy Spirit, fruit is evident!
Love – agape – self sacrificing, joy, peace – at one again; in line with God, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness – a person on whom others can rely, gentleness – strength under control, self-control – what one has learned is to be put into practice; **against such things there is no law.**

Life in Christ led by the Spirit will result in fruit reflecting God. As a natural physical example, apple trees produce fruit, apples. This requires a decision on our part: We engage the Spirit and live for Christ!

Galatians 5:24 (ESV)

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified** the flesh with its passions and desires.

Therefore, we make a decision to nail our sins, self will, to the cross with Christ and be “occupied with” the things of the Spirit. Then we can say with Paul:

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

I have been **crucified** with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

This all comes together in our opening verse:

Galatians 5:25 (ESV)

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

THIS SECTION ENDS WITH A WARNING: A church or believers going back to the Law will become contentious.

Galatians 5:26 (ESV)

Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Stated in more graphic terms:

Galatians 5:15 (ESV)

But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

A church or believers being led by the Law, denying Grace, denying the ministry of the Holy Spirit will become contentious, graceless, and powerless. Legalism always leads to comparisons being judgmental and hypocrisy.

Therefore, in our precious salvation, do not forget the Holy Spirit!

Galatians 3:13–14 (ESV)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us **SO THAT** we might receive **the Spirit as promised** through faith.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future