**“The Fruit-filled Life”**

Going deeper in Galatians 5:16-26

**INTRODUCTION**

Prior to this the Apostle Paul has started talking about what life apart from the law and led by the Spirit looks like. It is probable that some who had heard his message about salvation through faith in the grace of God alone have suggested that this is an invitation live however you want. Paul has been saying that this is not the case. Freedom from the law means freedom to live a Spirit-led life.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 16 Because you are free then walk with and by the Holy Spirit. In this kind of life, you will not feed the compulsions of the sinful nature. 17 This self-dominated nature does battle with the Holy Spirit and what the Holy Spirit wants is incompatible with this. These two ways of life are contrary to each other so you end not living the life you deeply desire. 18 But if you choose to be led by the Spirit you escape the erratic compulsions of a law-dominated life. 19 It is obvious what kind of life develops out a self-centered existence: meaningless and loveless sex, a garbage dump of mental and emotional turmoil; 20 an assortment of false gods, poisonous cheap thrills, hostility, arguing with others, jealousies, fits of rage, self-centered ambitions, divided lives, divisive groups, 21 small-minded pettiness, uncontrollable addictions, and out of control living. I could go on. I have said this before. Those who use their freedom this way will not inherit the Kingdom of God. 22 On the other hand, the fruit of a Spirit-led life is seen in love for all, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. These should permeate everything and legalism will not produce this kind of life. 24 Among those who belong to Jesus Christ the self-centered desires and passions have been killed off – crucified. 25 Since we now live this Spirit-led life let’s make sure it isn’t just head knowledge or a sentiment in our hearts, but that it gets worked out in all the details of our daily lives. 26 Let’s also make sure that this doesn’t lead to comparing ourselves with each as if one of us were better and another worse. Pride and envy are not part of the Spirit-led life we have been called to.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. In your experience what happens to the sinful nature when one becomes a Christian?

2. When you read some of the characteristics of the sinful nature (vs. 17-21, 26) which are ones that the Holy Spirit is calling you to work on?

3. When you read some of the characteristics of the Spirit-led life (vs. 22-25) which are ones that the Holy Spirit wants to produce more of in you?

4. Since there is no way to legislate the fruit of the Spirit how are these developed? How can we help one another with this?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Spend about two minutes in silence with the Lord. Spend some time praising him for his amazing grace.

\*Ask the Lord to show the ways in your life that may be contrary to the life he called you to. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the power to work on these.

\*Ask the Lord to show you the ways that you are cooperating with him (fruit of the Spirit). Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to grow more fruit in your life.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The Lord Jesus has given you a new life when you trusted him as Lord and Savior. This life involves the life-long cultivation of the fruit of the Spirit. Which fruit do you need the Holy Spirit’s help with this week? Will you ask? How will your life look different this week because of the growth of that fruit?