

"The Application of Grace"**Galatians 5-6****Part 5**

Introduction: Tonight, as we return to our study of Galatians, we are stepping back into the application section of the letter. Paul's method of writing is always to present doctrine and then duty. In other words, he presents the doctrine and then he explains how it is to be lived out in our lives. The point in all of this is that we cannot live what we do not know. In order to walk in obedience with the Lord we must know how we are to walk. This is why many believers struggle in their Christian life to live in holiness. No one has taught them how to live holy lives. They have been told to live holy, but they have not been taught how to do so. This is exactly what the letter to the Galatians is all about. Paul wants the believers in Galatia to know that holiness is not achieved by keep the Law or by keeping any set of man made rules. That is legalism. The path of holiness is the very same path we started on. We started this new life journey by faith. We believed the Bible when it said we are sinners who are lost and we believed the Bible when it said that Jesus Christ died to pay our sin debt, was buried, and rose from the dead on the third day. When we repented and exercised personal faith in the finished work of Jesus, God did a supernatural work in us and caused us to be born again. Now, as children of God we are to walk by faith in what the Bible says about us as children of God. The Bible tells us we are free from sin and that we have been crucified with Christ. Therefore, we no longer are servants of sin but now we can walk in obedience to God. When we believe what the Bible says about us God does another supernatural work by giving us victory over temptation.

2 Peter 1:2-4

² *Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,*

³ *According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

⁴ *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

Now let us get to our text for this evening. In chapter 5 Paul calls all believers into liberty. In verse 16 Paul makes the most important statement concerning how the believer is to live a holy life.

Notice Galatians 5:16

This verse contains a command and a promise. To walk in the Spirit is to walk by faith in what the Bible says about us and then trust the Spirit to give us the power to overcome temptation. When we do this, we are assured that we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Starting in verse 19 and going through verse 21 Paul tells his readers what the works of the flesh will produce.

Notice Galatians 5:19-21

Verse 21 has caused a great deal of controversy in the church over the years. What does Paul mean when he says that they who practice such sins will not inherit the Kingdom of God? We know that this does not mean that we lose our salvation because that would contradict our Scriptures.

John 10:27-29

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

John 3:3

³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

When we are saved we are "born again" so to lose our salvation we would need to be "unborn" from the family of God.

Some say that in Galatians 5:21 Paul is talking about believers who get into these sins will lose their rewards.

I believe that what Paul is saying is that those who practice these sins might call themselves believers, but they are not really saved. It is possible for a believer to fall into any of the sins that Paul mentions but when they do there is remorse and repentance. They do not stay in the sin and comfortably live in it each and every day.

Notice Galatians 5:16-18, 21 again.

In verse 21 Paul goes outside the church and uses the word "THEY" which tells me those who practice these sins comfortably are not believers. Notice the words of F. W. Grant.

"Grace is that which breaks the dominion of sin, sets the soul right to go on with God, and if this be not the result of it, grace has not been learned at all, nor can it be pleaded as availing in behalf of those who, whatever they may profess, show themselves uninfluenced by it."

Notice the words of William Kelly.

"Holiness, we all agree, is so imperative that without it no one shall see the Lord; and the professing Christian who does not pursue it only deceives himself. It is false and misleading to let people fancy that they may be real saints, yet unholy. 'Every one' that has the grace-given hope resting on Him purifies himself as He is pure; others that have not are self-deceived. Because of iniquities the wrath of God cometh upon the sons of disobedience; but believers are essentially sons of obedience, and His love rests on them. If one sin, it is a grievous inconsistency. But grace does not fail to awaken self-judgment through our blessed Advocate with the Father, and restoration ensures. Those who do the wicked works of the flesh, and abide impenitent and indifferent have no part or lot with Christ, shall not inherit the kingdom of God, and in no way share the portion of the saints in light."

"The Fruit of the Spirit"

Paul now will proceed to explain the contrast between the flesh and the Spirit.

Notice Galatians 5:22a

I want to slow down and consider the first part of this verse. Paul is about to describe the fruit of the Spirit but before he does let us consider a few thoughts. First of all, we need to notice that the word fruit is singular. These are not the fruits of the Spirit, but this is the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit listed here is like a bunch of grapes. They are together as a fruit. As we look at the fruit of the Spirit let us keep in mind that when we walk in the Spirit each and every one of these will be evident. It is not that someone will show forth one and not the other. They are all one fruit.

The second thing we need to consider is that only the Spirit of God can produce this fruit. This fruit will never come from following a set of rules or by keeping the Law. Nothing we do in our power will ever produce these characteristics. Now someone may respond by

saying, "My neighbor is not saved, and he is a loving person, and he seems to be a person of joy and self-control." Let us keep in mind that the flesh will produce counterfeits. Only the Spirit of God can produce genuine love. Anything else is a cheap, human counterfeit. Only the Spirit can produce joy, and anything else is a counterfeit joy produced by man. We need to know the difference between that which is the real thing produced by God and that which is only a counterfeit, produced by man and produced by the flesh. Only God's Spirit can produce and radiate the fruit of the Spirit, and the Spirit of God dwells only in the heart of the person who has believed on Christ. The unsaved person who does not have the Spirit can never have the true fruit of the Spirit. Let us also understand that this fruit can only be manifested in our lives as we walk in fellowship with our Lord. Notice what Jesus said.

John 15:1-5

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

³ *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

⁵ *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

Notice Galatians 5:22-23

Let us notice what De Haan says concerning the fruit of the Spirit.

"The "fruit" of the Spirit is singular and consists of three groups of virtues:

- 1. **Personal fruit**—love, joy, peace. These have to do with our own subjective personal life.*
- 2. **Outreaching fruit to others**—longsuffering, gentleness, goodness. This is our attitude in grace toward others.*
- 3. **Up-reaching fruit**—toward God. They are faith, meekness, temperance. Nine parts of one fruit, all supplied by the Spirit. It covers our complete responsibility toward God, our fellow man, and others."*

Let us now consider this fruit.

- a. **Love** - This love is best described in 1 Corinthians 13. It is love that one chooses to extend to others and is willing to sacrifice whatever to benefit the other person. This love is best seen in God Himself.

Romans 5:8

⁸ *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

John 3:16

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

This is the very love that the Spirit of God will manifest in our lives as we walk in the Spirit.

Romans 5:5

⁵ *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

- b. Joy - This is not happiness. Happiness can be experienced because of circumstances. If you get a pay raise, if you sell your home above asking price, if you buy a new car and the list goes on and on. Happiness is all about experiencing positive events. Joy is different in the sense that it can be within the believer even when their world is caving in. Joy exists even when we stand by the grave of a loved one, it can exist even when there is news that we have been diagnosed with a terminal illness. This joy comes directly from the Lord for it is His joy.

John 15:9-11

⁹ *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

¹⁰ *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

¹¹ *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

- c. Peace - When we were saved, we had peace with God. Now that we are the children of God and we walk in the Spirit we can have the peace of God in any situation that we face.

Philippians 4:6-9

⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

⁷ *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

⁸ *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

⁹ *Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.*

Conclusion:

This joy and peace are what the world longs for today, but they have no access to either because they do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Therefore, they spend their entire lives searching in stuff, things, and experiences in an attempt to have joy and peace. We as believers have both as we walk in fellowship with our Lord. Let us remember that this can only come from the Spirit and we then must walk in the Spirit to have this in our lives. Do not settle for a counterfeit of the flesh.