

Bethany Church - Small Group Study Questions
Freedom Week 10 - How To Live In Freedom

Intro:

- What was “the takeaway” (the most important point) from Sunday’s sermon and/or the sermon text, in your opinion?
- What insight from Sunday’s sermon did you find most helpful, or eye-opening, or troubling (pick any or all of the above)?

Read Galatians 5:16-26

Group Questions:

- Describe the conflict believers have with the flesh.
- Compare and contrast this passage with **Romans 7:13-25**
- Why does Paul keep saying that if you follow the Holy Spirit, you are no longer under the law? Does the law have no purpose for Christians? (**Gal 5:18, 2:16 & Rom 7:4-25**)
- How do you behave when you follow your own desires? How many sinful acts does Paul list? Can you name any others? (**Gal 5:19-21**)
- Why do you follow your own desires when you “know” that you should not?
- Rate yourself honestly on the fruit of the Spirit in your own. 10 means this is the way I act today, 1 means I have a long way to go on this item.
 - **LOVE.** Love is pre-eminent in my life. I see all people through the eyes of Christ. I have a deep compassion for the lost, the lonely, the weak and the poor. I am magnanimous towards those who “get in my hair.” I keep no record of wrongs. I give selflessly, sometimes till it hurts. I go the extra mile. I would rather forgive 20 injuries than avenge one. God always comes first.
 - **JOY.** People know me for my joyful disposition even when there is a cause to grieve. There is a contagious radiance about me because “the joy of the Lord is my strength.” I remain strong and positive when things go wrong because I trust in God. I am quick to see the brighter side of things. I know that for my shattered plans, God has better plans. My contentment springs from the knowledge that God is sovereign and Jesus is coming again.

- **PEACE.** The peace of God rules my heart and mind. I stay calm in disturbing situations because my eyes are fixed on Jesus. With few exceptions (and I'm working on these) I enjoy wholesome and beautiful relationships all round. Whenever relationships are strained or fractured I take the initiative in moving toward healing and restoration. I can see the dark spots in my own life and am quick to confess them. I am willing always to pay the price of being a peace-maker in a world of bruised relationships.
- **PATIENCE.** I never make hasty judgements or speak hasty words. I am not quick to jump to conclusions. I am patient with people when they fail or fall. I face opposition and discouragement with composure. I never give up. I keep cool while others are hot. I am not irritable or easily angered. My "tolerance level" is extremely high. I can put up with a lot. I accept people for who they are—and not for how they perform. When I confront others, they feel I do so because I care!
- **KINDNESS.** People feel "love's touch" when they're around me. I am blessed with a M- I-L-D disposition (though, occasionally, I do turn that "M" upside down). I let God deal with the bitterness, anger and malice in my heart. A deep respect and consideration for others, coupled with a forgiving spirit, makes relating to people such a pleasure! The kindness of Jesus is seen in me.
- **GOODNESS.** The goodness of God touches my life and then overflows into the lives of others. I am a caring person, a friend and neighbor to many. A genuine benevolence characterizes my life. When I see a need, I respond to it in the compassion of Christ. I am sensitive to the evil and suffering around, and seek to be an instrument of God's liberating touch. Uplifting the quality of people's lives is a major concern to me.
- **FAITHFULNESS.** I make promises—and keep them. I am a man of my word. People can count on me. There is no gap in what I say and what I do. Fidelity is the hallmark of my marriage and other commitments. I do not flirt with the world—or with anyone. I am true to the Lord, to my spouse, to people, and to causes that God entrusts to me. They are all sacred to me!
- **MEEKNESS.** I am willing "to go under" any yoke that God wants me to—to be SUBMISSIVE to God—and to one another out of our mutual reverence for Christ. I freely and willingly accept all that God, in His providence, gives or withholds from me. I am willing to step "under the yoke" with Christ and my co-workers in kingdom service. I am willing to step aside when it is time to do so. I bring myself under the authority of Christ and His Church. I can "glory in my infirmities so that the power of God may be made manifest in me." I bear provocation without being inflamed by it. I give a soft answer when angry words are spoken. I

respect my own rights and the rights of others, willing to give up mine if the Lord so guides me. I am a pro-actor not a re-actor. I relate to others as one among sinners—never arrogantly.

- **SELF-CONTROL.** The key to my life is self-mastery. I am temperate in my thoughts, words, and actions. I live a disciplined life-in private and in public. I have complete mastery of my body, my mind, my emotions and will, my time, my possessions, my desires and appetites. I never lose control. I don't eat too much, drink too much, work too much, play too much, or sleep too much: no excesses whatever! Jesus is Lord over every area of my life!
- How might you crucify the flesh daily?
- In what ways are you tempted to disobey **verse 26**? Stop and pray for the Spirit's work in you to avoid this sin. List ways that you might love and serve others.