

“Examine Yourself”
Galatians 5:19-25

Introduction:

1. Galatians 5:16 - “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh!”
 - The Question I Would Like To Begin Our Message With:
 - Is This - “Have You Walked In The Spirit This Week?”
 - And - “Are You Walking In The Spirit Today?”
 - Last Week - We Learned More:
 - Of What This Means:
 - And How Every Christian – Every Day – Needs To Follow The Leading Of The Holy Spirit – In Every Decision – Through Compliance And Obedience To His Word!
 - Is This How You Are Walking With God?
 - Sometimes We May Even Wonder:
 - How Can I Tell?
 - How Can I Tell If & When I Am Walking In The Spirit & Following His Leading?
2. Well - As We Get Closer To The End Of:
 - Galatians Chapter 5 - We Find Out How!
 - So Let’s Head Back To Galatians 5 Together:
 - If You’re Not There Already!
 - So - How Can You Tell If / When:
 - You Are Walking In The Spirit As A Christian / Child Of God?
 - Even As The Apostle Paul Says In Another Place:
 - “Let A Man Examine Himself!” (1 Corinthians 11:28)
 - We Need To Examine Ourselves:
 - And Our Own Walk With The Lord!
 - **IE:** Have You Ever Gone To The Grocery Store To Get Some Fruit? And You Want To Find The Best Fruit & The Freshest Fruit! What Do You Do? You Don’t Just Pick It From The Top & Throw It In The Bag! You Pick Each One Up & “Examine” It! Looking / Feeling / Squeezing / Thumping / Until You Find Just The Right One!
 - This Is What We Find The Apostle Paul Doing:
 - In Galatians 5:19-25 - Where We Read These Words:
 - “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, / 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, / 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. / 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, / 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. / 24 And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. / 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit!”
3. We Need To Examine Ourselves This Morning!
 - And Then - Continue To “Walk In The Spirit” And Let Him:
 - Cultivate More & More Of **His** Fruit In Our Hearts & Lives!
 - And What We Find In These Verses:
 - Are Three Things That We Need To:
 - Closely Examine!
 - We Need To Examine:
 - Our Works / Our Fruit / & Our Walk:
 - With God! (2x)

* So - First - I Want You To Examine With Me The:

1. **Works Of The Flesh:**
 - How Do You Know If You Are:
 - Walking In The Spirit?
 - Well - What Is Most Noticeable In Your Life?
 - Is It The Work Of The Holy Spirit?
 - Or - Is It The Work Of Your Own Flesh?
 - Beginning In 5:19, Paul Writes:

- “Now the works of the flesh are manifest!”
 - With These Words, We See:
- The Prominence Of The Flesh!
 - We Need To Remember That:
 - The “Flesh” That Paul Is Talking About:
 - Is Not Your Human Body – But Your Natural, Sinful & Fallen Human Nature!
 - And The “Works” Of Our “Flesh” Are:
 - “Manifest!”
 - This Means That They Are Obvious & Clear!
 - It Really Shouldn’t Be Too Hard To Tell:
 - If You Are Living Your Life:
 - Under The Influence Of Your Old Nature & Flesh!
 - You Just Need To Examine:
 - Its “Works!”
 - And In The Next Couple Of Verses, We Find A List That Covers Many Of The “Works Of The Flesh!”
- So, Here Is:
- The Picture Of The Flesh!
 - 5:19-21 - “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, / 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, / 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like!”
 - This Is A List Of 17 “Works Of The Flesh!”
 - Now - Some Translations Have Only 15 - But I Believe These 17 Best Represent The Original Text! But Either Way - We Need To:
 - Examine Our Lives Based On These Works!
 - Because They Help Us See What Our Flesh:
 - Is Really Like!
 - And How It Can Still Affect & Influence Our Lives – Even As Christians!
 - And All Of These “Works” Of The Flesh:
 - Are Based On Our Own “Lusts” & Desires Of The Flesh!
 - We Find:
 - Our Own Lusts For Pleasure:
 - First 4 – “Adultery / Fornication / Uncleanness / Lasciviousness!”
 - All Four Of These Have To Do With Sexual Lusts & Sins!
 - Adultery Is Unfaithfulness In Marriage!
 - Fornication Is Any Kind Of Immorality Outside God’s Plan & Purpose In A Biblical Marriage!
 - Uncleanness Is Unnatural & Immoral Thoughts & Behavior That Even “Dishonors [Your] Own Bodies!” (Romans 1:24)
 - Lasciviousness Is A Desire To “Work All Uncleanness With Greediness!” (Ephesians 4:19)
 - Do You Find These Lusts At Work In Your Heart? Also Find:
 - Our Own Lusts For Prominence:
 - Next 2 - “Idolatry / Witchcraft!”
 - These Two Have To Do With The Worship Of False Gods!
 - Idolatry Is Honoring Anyone Or Anything Else As God Or Above God!
 - Witchcraft Is The Use Of Sorcery & Other Superstitious Beliefs & Acts - Ultimately In Worship Of The Devil Himself!
 - These Lusts Were Prominent In Galatia, But Does Idolatry Still Persist In Our Own Hearts? Also See:
 - Our Own Lusts For Power:
 - Next 8 - And Probably Hits Even Closer To Home!
 - Hatred Is The Opposite Of Love & Is The Desire For Someone’s Harm!
 - Variance Is An Arguing & Quarreling Spirit!
 - Emulations Is A Jealousy That Someone Is Living Better Than Us & We Feel Better Than They Deserve!
 - Wrath Is An Outburst & A Fit Of Anger & Rage!
 - Strife Is A Spirit Of Constant Rivalry!
 - Sedition Is A Desire To Take Sides & Cause Division!
 - Heresy Is A Division Based On Your Own Opinion & Goals!

- Envy is a Discontentment & A Desire For What Another Person Has!
 - This Is What Our Human Nature Is Really Like! Do You See These Kinds Of Lusts At Work In Your Own Heart & Life?
 - “The Works Of The Flesh Are Manifest – Are Clear!”
- Our Own Lusts Of Passion:
 - Are Found In The Final 3 - “Murders / Drunkenness / Revellings!”
 - Murder Is Not Just The Deed, But Even The Desire To Kill Out Of Anger & Rage!
 - Drunkenness Is To Be Intoxicated & Under The Influence Of Anything Other Than The Holy Spirit!
 - Revelling Is Living In An Unbridled & Unrestrained Way – All About Yourself & Pleasure!
 - And Just In Case Paul Missed Any, He Adds - “And Such Like!”
- This Is A Picture Of:
 - What Your Flesh & My Flesh Is Like:
 - And What It Is Capable Of!
 - And We Have A Desperate Need For Our Flesh To Be Restrained!
 - Because Of:
- The Problem Of My Flesh:
 - 5:21 - “Of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God!”
 - Paul Wants Everyone To Know That:
 - If Your Life Is Dominated By These “Works Of The Flesh” Then:
 - It Is Also Clear That You “Shall Not Inherit The Kingdom Of God!”
 - This Means - That You Are Not Saved!
 - You Are Not A Christian!
 - You Are Not A Child Of God:
 - Because The Spirit Of God Is Not At Home In Your Heart!
 - And – “You Cannot Enter The Kingdom Of God As You Are!” (Albert Barnes)
 - **IE:** What Would Heaven Be Like:
 - If These Kinds Of Lusts & Sins Were Allowed To Enter? Heaven Would Not Be Heaven At All!
 - You Need To Examine Your Own “Works Of The Flesh!”
 - You Need To - 2 Corinthians 13:5 - “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith!”
 - Because - The “Works Of The Flesh Are Manifest!”
 - But - There Is Real “Hope & Change” For You Through The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
 - The Solution To The Problem:
 - Of The “Works Of [Your] Flesh” Is Not:
 - The “Works Of The Law!”
 - You Cannot Erase Or Equal Out:
 - Your Bad Works With Good Works!
 - Instead – You Need To:
 - Turn From The Works Of Your Flesh Completely:
 - And Trust In The Complete Work Of Jesus Christ!
 - His Perfect Life! His Redeeming Death!
 - And His Powerful Resurrection!
 - All To Save You & Free You From Your Flesh!
 - You Need To “Run To Christ!”
 - Even As A Christian - And See Your Flesh Once Again Try To Gain The Upper Hand!
 - “I run to Christ when stalked by sin / And find a sure escape. / “Deliver me,” I cry to Him; / Temptation yields to grace!”
 - And - When You Receive His Grace:
 - It Will Lead You To Examine The:

2. ***Fruit Of The Spirit:***

- So - How Do You Know If You Are:
 - Walking In The Spirit?
 - Well - You Can Only “Walk In The Spirit” When The Holy Spirit Enters Into Your Life!
 - And This Only Happens When You “Believe On The Lord Jesus Christ” And Are Saved!

- But Then - The Holy Spirit Begins To Cultivate:
 - His "Fruit" In Your Life!
 - May Start Out Small:
 - Mark 4:28 - "For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear!"
 - But This "Fruit" Will Grow & Ripen Into A Character Like That Of Jesus Christ's Himself!
 - And So We See:
- The Nature Of His Fruit:
 - 5:22 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, / Meekness, temperance!"
 - This Is A Single Fruit:
 - That Grows Itself With Nine Special Endowments & Graces From The Spirit Of God!
 - Now - Could Spend A Lot Of Time:
 - Looking At Each One Of These:
 - But For Today - Examine Yourself To See If There Is This Fruit In Your Life – As A Whole!
 - Remember - This Is All One Fruit:
 - But With Different Elements:
 - **IE:** Like Citrus Fruit - Segments!
 - First Three - Refers To Your Personal Condition In Christ:
 - Love - A Heart-Felt Affection And Desire To Bless Others - Expressed Upwardly & Outwardly!
 - Joy - A Deep-Seated Gladness That Dwells On The Lord & His Grace & Goodness, No Matter What!
 - Psalm 70:4 - "Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified!"
 - Peace - A Lasting Tranquility In Spirit With God & In Our Own Conscience!
 - A Peace "Which Passeth Understanding!" (Philippians 4:7)
 - Do You See & Sense God's Grace To You:
 - In These Ways? Part Of The "Fruit Of The Spirit" In Your Life!
 - Next Three - Refers To Your Personal Conduct Like Christ:
 - Longsuffering - Patience - Includes Forbearing & Forgiving Spirit To Others!
 - Gentleness - Kindness & Tender-Heartedness & Courtesy Toward Others!
 - Goodness - To Display Your Love Toward Others, For Their Benefit & Profit - "The Spirit's Work Is To Make Us Good, And Then To Have Us Do Good!"
 - Do You See & Sense God's Grace To You:
 - In These Ways? Part Of The "Fruit Of The Spirit" In Your Life!
 - Last Three - Refers To Your Personal Character Like Christ:
 - Faith - Or Faithfulness & Trustworthiness!
 - Meekness - A Spirit Of Humility & Submission Even Through Suffering! Being Thoughtful & Teachable!
 - Temperance - A Spirit-Enabled Self-Control - To Master & Control Your Own Flesh!
 - Do You See & Sense God's Grace To You:
 - In These Ways?
 - But - If You Look More Closely At These:
 - Elements - Don't You See Them All:
 - In The Person & Work Of Your Savior Jesus Christ?
 - This "Fruit Of The Spirit":
 - Will Manifest Itself More & More In Your Life:
 - As You "Walk In The Spirit!"
 - And You Will Become More & More Like Your Savior, Jesus Christ!
 - In Your Condition / Conduct / Character!
 - He Will Increase – Even As You & Your Flesh:
 - Decrease! Isn't This The Heart's Desire Of Every True Christian? Is It Your's?
 - Also See:
- The Need For His Fruit:
 - 5:23 - "Against such there is no law!"
 - Remember - 2 Corinthians 3:17 - "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty!"
 - And It Is The Fruit Of The Spirit That Leads You To That Freedom In Christ!

- Because - No Law Ever Has Been Enacted:
 - Nor Ever Can Be - To Restrict / Restrain / Regulate:
 - This Fruit!
 - The “Fruit Of The Spirit” Is As Good & As Holy As The Spirit Himself Is!
- And So - As A Christian - You Are:
 - Free To Be As Full Of This Fruit As Possible!
 - Free To Be Fruitful!
- So - Examine The Fruit Of Your Own Life!
 - Is There This Kind Of Fruit?
 - The “Fruit Of The Spirit”?
 - If So - Rest In Christ!
- And Continue To “Walk In The Spirit”:
 - And His Fruit Will Grow!

* Third - Need To Also Examine Your:

3. ***Walk In The Faith:***

- Paul Concludes This Section With These Words - 5:24-25:
 - “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. / If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit!”
 - If You Are Still Struggling With Your Flesh:
 - Then You Need To Remember Some Things About Your Walk With God!
 - And Even If You Are Walking In The Spirit:
 - You Too Need To Remember These Things About Your Walk With God!
 - Remember The Reason For Your Walk:
 - “And They That Are Christ’s!”
 - If You Have Turned From Your Sinful Flesh & Have Turned To & Trusted In Jesus:
 - To Be Your Savior:
 - Then You “Are Christ’s!”
 - That Is - You Belong To Him!
 - Never Forget This!
 - He Chose You By His Own Will!
 - He Bought You By His Own Blood!
 - He Loves You Without Measure!
 - And So Walk With Him:
 - As The Dear Child Of God That You Have Become! Also:
 - Remember The Reality Of Your Walk:
 - “And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts!”
 - If You Truly Belong To Christ:
 - You Have “Crucified [Your] Flesh” Already!
 - It’s As If - When Jesus Died On The Cross:
 - And You Put Your Trust In Him:
 - You Put Your Own Flesh On That Cross:
 - And Nailed It Up There, To Die Along With Jesus!
 - It’s As If You – Personally:
 - Drove A Stake Into The Heart Of Your Own Flesh!
 - All By The Grace & Power Of God!
 - And Now - Your Flesh Does Not Rule Over You, As It Once Did!
 - So - When You Remember That You Did This:
 - You “Have Crucified The Flesh With The Affections And Lusts!”
 - Need To Continue To Ask Yourself - In The Words Of Romans 6:2 - “How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” Then:
 - Remember The Responsibility Of Your Walk:
 - 5:25 - “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit!”
 - Every Child Of God:
 - Is “Living” In / By “The Spirit” Of God!
 - He Is The Source:
 - Of Your New Birth:
 - And Of Your New Life In Christ!

- And So - Since You:
 - Have Been Given Life By The Holy Spirit:
 - And Since You:
 - Are Being Led By The Holy Spirit:
 - What Are You To Do?
- “Walk In The Spirit!”
 - Just As He Wrote In 5:16:
 - “Walk In The Spirit!”
 - This Is The Personal Responsibility & Possibility For Every Child Of God!
- So - Every Day - Return To Christ & His Cross:
 - The One You Belong To:
 - And The One Who Took Your Every Sin Upon Himself!
 - And Walk In His Spirit!

Conclusion:

1. So - Are You “Walking In The Spirit” Today?
 - You Can Tell When You:
 - Examine Yourself!
 - Examine The Works Of Your Flesh!
 - And Run To Christ!
 - Examine The Fruit Of The Spirit!
 - And Rest In Him!
 - Examine The Walk Of Your Faith!
 - And Every Day Return To The One:
 - You Belong To!
2. Remember 2:20 - “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.
 - And So - Let Us Live Our Lives:
 - Walking Step By Step – Every Day & In Every Decision:
 - In Submission To The:
 - Leading Of The Holy Spirit!

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