

Discussion Questions

Cultivating Fruit-filled Lives



Galatians 5:16-25: Introduction

As we prepare to make room for the fruit of the spirit to grow, I want to encourage you to find some time this week to invite the Spirit to help you self-examine and listen to what he says as you...

- Consider which works of the flesh are still active in your life and need to be uprooted?
- Consider how lockdown has changed temptations in your life (more or less)? What factors have altered to enable this (*e.g., places/people you do/don't see any more*)?
- How will you remember the gospel of grace to ensure it under-mines those 'good' over-desires we might have, ensuring that our identity is found in the work of Christ and our priority is to glorify him?

Additional Questions – choose 2-3 to further your thinking.

- What part of the sermon stood out as important to you this week? Why?
- What's the difference between being 'led' (v18) and 'walking by the Spirit' (v16, 25)? How does this partnership work in your life?
- Consider what Paul means by 'will not inherit the Kingdom of God' (v21). What type of people is Paul talking about? How does vv19-21 contrast vv22-23? *Paul is referring here to habitual sin (seemingly beyond our control) rather than occasional 'slips'.*
- It's important to recognise we all struggle with sin (James 3:2). In Romans 7:15-25 Paul helpfully describes this 'battle'. In what ways can you relate to this? How do these three passages—Romans 8:11, James 4:7-8 and Matthew 5:29-30 (remember this is figurative speech!)—help us think about our partnership with the Spirit in overcoming habitual sin?
- It's interesting to note that a Roman guard would be present at all times during a crucifixion to ensure nobody took the person down until they were dead. With this in mind, thinking on v24 when Paul speaks of '*nailing...our sinful nature to the cross*', perhaps a modern version of this 'guard' is engaging with an accountability group, receiving prayer ministry and/or seeking supportive therapy as you persist in keeping your old-self nailed to the cross and walking with the Spirit. Are there battles you're facing that you need extra support in fighting?
- John 17:17 reminds us that the Holy Spirit, through God's word, continues to sanctify us. Which segments of the fruit (vv22-23) do you recognise in your life? Why not spend some time thanking Him for the work he continues to do in your life (Philippians 1:6).