

Today's Outline*



The Dynamic of the Christian Life 5:13-26

1. An Outline of Liberty 5:13-15
2. An Outline of Spirituality 5:16-26
 - a. The Walk by the Spirit 5:16-18
 - b. The Works of the Flesh 5:19-21
 - c. The Fruit of the Spirit 5:22-23
 - d. Life by the Spirit and our Position 5:24-26

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.



walk by the Spirit

walk - *peripateō* – lit: to walk about; figuratively, signifying the whole round of the activities of the individual life

and you will not carry out

- you cannot, you will never, never will bring to completion (it's an impossibility)

the desire of the flesh (the sinful nature)

- Paul is not saying you will have no desire of the flesh.
- Paul is saying these desires of the flesh will not be brought to completion as we walk by the Spirit.

17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.



The battle between the flesh and Holy Spirit:

- the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit
- the Spirit (sets its desire) against the flesh
- in our position we are in the Spirit - Rom 8:9a However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.
- in our condition or walk - we can walk in the flesh or walk in the Spirit



- Paul now list “deeds of the flesh”

¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these

--- these deeds describe the nature of the flesh

- Paul then describes the (singular) fruit of the Spirit

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control

--- these attributes describe the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ



Now the verses for today!

²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

²⁶ Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.



24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

now (but) - *de* – in contrast to what has gone before

subject: **those (the ones)** - believers

modifier: **who belong to Christ Jesus** – describes who a believer is

lit: who are of Christ Jesus

Scripture says this about a believer being of Christ Jesus:

- a. You have been born again - 1 John 5:1
- b. You have been redeemed - Eph. 1:7
- c. You have been justified - Rom 5:1
- d. You have been identified – Rom 6:3-5

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have
crucified



1 John 5:1a Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God,

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rom 6:3-5 – key points

Identified with Christ in death, burial and resurrection

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.



This is what has been accomplished for those who are of Christ Jesus:

verb: have crucified – *stauroō* – lit: “to put to death on the cross” - past point fact, reality for every believer

object: the flesh

- this is saying that the believer’s flesh was put to death!

now several questions arise!

a. what is “the flesh” in this context?

b. how and when was the flesh crucified (put to death)?

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.



a. what is the flesh in this context?

- the flesh is being used in a bad or evil sense in verse 24
- verse 24 says with (together with) its passions & desires
- the flesh is not speaking of the physical body but the sin nature
- we see in Rom 7:18a For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh;
- These passions & desires can be manifested in the “deeds of the flesh”

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.



b. how and when was the flesh crucified (put to death)?

remember that verse 24 says every believer has crucified (put to death) the flesh

The believer's crucifixion of flesh can be understood by recalling our identification with Christ*

1. To begin we trusted in Christ as our Savior
2. Based on our faith God retroactively identified us:
 - In Christ's death
 - In Christ's burial
 - In Christ's resurrection
 - In Christ's ascension
 - In Christ's seating

* adapted from Hal Molloy

24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.



b. how and when was the flesh crucified? (cont.)

3. So when Christ was crucified on the cross

He died for sins as our substitute

He died unto sin (the sin nature)

He did not forgive the sin nature

But He condemned the sin nature in the flesh

4. God took all who we were in Adam and co-crucified us with Christ

summary: when Christ was crucified we were co-crucified with Him to the flesh with its passions & desires

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.



If we live by(in) the Spirit

assumed to be true (1st class):

assuming it is true that we live by(in) the Spirit (Merryman)

we know the following:

- every believer has the Holy Spirit dwelling within
Rom 8:9b
- the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
Rom 8:2
- However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit
Rom 8:9a
- this is our position which is unchangeable
- we have been separated from the flesh* but we can still walk in it

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.



let us also walk by the Spirit.

now we have a similar instruction as in verse 16 but the word for “walk” is different

walk - *stoicheō* - signifies to walk in line or a row, and is used metaphorically: to keep “in step” by the Holy Spirit

This is speaking of our moment by moment condition as we walk in step by the Holy Spirit:*

- The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin – confess it
- The Holy Spirit reveals Christ to us via the Word
- The Holy Spirit manifest the fruit of the Spirit
- The Holy Spirit conforms us to Christ’s image

²⁶ Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.



let us not become

become – *ginomai* – a change in state of being

the idea here is:*

- let us not become (in our practice) who we are not in our life in the Spirit
- don't let your walk be characterized by anything that is inconsistent with the very life of Christ

let us stop becoming (Wuest)

now we will have three warnings!

26 Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.



1st - boastful – *kenodoxia* - from kenos, "vain, empty,"
doxa, "glory,"

Phil 2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;

the idea is:

- one who is empty of glory (i.e. vain glory)
- one who tries to produce the fruit of the Spirit by the flesh
- Paul was trying to produce the righteousness of the Law

This is another “deed of the flesh”!

²⁶ Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.



2nd - challenging one another* - lit: to stir up what is evil in another

example: you know the right buttons to push to get a person agitated and angry

3rd - envying one another* - lit: you feel displeasure when something good occurs in another's life

- there should be joy for one another but there is sorrow
- we should not envy the blessings of one another

Final Thoughts*



- boasting, challenging and envying come from the flesh
- we are Christ's and have crucified (put to death) the flesh with all of its passions and desires
- we live in the Spirit (our glorious position)
- so let us walk in the Spirit so He can manifest the person of Christ in us
- the person of Christ is His love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

