

## INDEPENDENCE OR IN DEPENDENCE?

Galatians 5:16-25

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To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;

through painful toil you will eat food from it

all the days of your life.

It will produce thorns and thistles for you... (Genesis 3:17-18a)

### **As Christians it is critical that we actively cultivate dependence upon the Holy Spirit**

“...as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.” (Ecc. 2:11 NLT)

#### **Justification:**

Legal standing before God

Once for all time

Entirely God's work

Perfect in this life

The same for all Christians

#### **I. Christians must recognize the source of the struggle. (v. 16-17)**

Two Competing Forces:

- The Spirit of God and
- The sinful nature.

#### **Sanctification:**

Internal condition

Ongoing throughout life

We cooperate with God

Not perfect in this life

Greater in some than others

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so **easily entangles**, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Hebrews 12:1)

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat (*discipline*) my body and

make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. (1 Corinthians 9:25-29)

These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict. (Galatians 5:17c - NLT)

## **II. Christians must reject the sins of the flesh. (v. 19-20)**

Category 1 is **Sensuality**

Finding meaning in sexual activities and in fleshly lusts.

Category 2 is **Spirituality**

Finding meaning in religious practices or experiences that are not directed toward the one True and Living God.

Category 3 is **Significance**

Finding meaning in our power, prestige and position

Category 4 is **Surrender**

We abandon the search for meaning and self-medicate to the point that we just don't care anymore.

No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. (1 John 3:6)

## **III. Christians will reflect the Fruit of the Spirit. (v. 22-25)**

Three categories:

- 1) In relation to God
- 2) In relation to others
- 3) In relation to ourselves

The Moral Bridge:

Knowledge      Desire      Strength

I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:11)

As iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17)

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. (1 John 5:14-15)