

WHITFIELD PARISH

St James' Church † St Luke's Church

LIFE Group Notes w/b Sunday 9 March 2008

Doing what comes naturally

Galatians 5.13–26

Comment:

If Galatians had finished at Chapter 5 v.13, it might be reasonable to conclude that to be saved all we have to do is believe and then we can behave as we want. Indeed, this is the criticism that is often levelled at the simple Gospel of Grace.

As we read on in Galatians it is clear this is not Paul's intention at all.

Read Galatians 5 v.13–26

1. According to v.13-15, what have we been freed from and what have we been freed for?
2. In what ways can it be said "The entire law is summed up in a single command" (v.14)?
3. What is the difference between living "by the Spirit" (v.16) and trying to keep the law?
4. What does Jeremiah 31 v.33 say to us about what we have been learning from Galatians and especially this passage?

5. In this passage, Paul describes the Christian life in the following ways:

- i) "live by the Spirit" (v.16)
- ii) "led by the Spirit" (v.18)
- iii) "keep in step with the Spirit" (v.25)

What do each of these descriptions of the Christian life mean in reality? How do we live like this?

6. Should Christians expect to be able to conquer the sin in their lives?
7. What is Paul saying about the conflict between the "sinful nature" and the Spirit in this passage? How does this relate to the answer to question 6?
8. How do the fruits of the Spirit in v.22-23 relate to the law?
9. Do "sins of the flesh" only turn up in X-rated movies? What "sins of the flesh" might you find in a U-rated movie?
10. What steps can you take this week to co-operate more with God in growing the crop of the Spirit in your life?