

Keep In Step With The Spirit (Galatians 5:25)

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Context of Galatians chapter 5

The context of Galatians chapter 5 is justification, by grace through faith, not through works of law (Galatians 1:6, 2:16, 21, 3:24, 5:4). Through the new covenant, Christian's are no longer under the judgement and condemnation of the law (Galatians 3:25). But, we should not abuse this grace and freedom by walking in the flesh, rather we should ***serve one another in love*** (Galatians 5:13). We should love our neighbour as ourselves and not destroy each other (Galatians 5:14-15).

Galatians 5:16 tells us how to love our neighbour as ourselves: ***walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh***

Seventeen different lusts of the flesh are listed in Galatians 5:19-21 which include five areas of sin: sexual, worship, spiritual, anger and loss of control.

Our flesh desires to participate in these sins (Galatians 5:17). But if we continue to practice these sins of the flesh we will not be able to receive the inheritance, or blessings, of the Lord's kingdom (Galatians 5:21). A reason is because sin hardens our heart (Hebrews 3:13) and the hard heart cannot grow the root, to sustain the development of the seed of God's promises, to receive the fruit of God's kingdom (Mark 4:16-17, 20).

The apostle then lists nine fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Christians are to subdue or crucify the desires of our flesh (Galatians 5:24), and rather walk in the Spirit.

1. Walk in Love

- 1 John 4:8 - **God is love** - Gal 5:13, 1 Cor 13:13
- 1 John 4:10 - Propitiation for our sins

2. God's Covenant Promises

- 2 Peter 1:2-4 The covenant promises of the Lord reveal to us the details of what Jesus achieved for us through the Cross.
- Knowledge of the covenant promises supplies everything we need for godliness and life. – 2 Pet 1:3-4

3. Righteousness – God's gift (2 Corinthians 5:17, 21, Romans 5:17)

4. Human responsibility

- Romans 12:2 – We need to renew our mind
- Mark 4:26 – We need to plant and cultivate the promises in our hearts through meditation

5. Walk in the Spirit - When we experience the power of God's divine provision, and partake of His divine nature of love, it is much easier to share His love towards our neighbour (2 Peter 1:2-4, Matthew 11:28-30).