

DISCUSSION IDEAS
WALK IN THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:13-26

November 13th, 2016

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♦ **DISCUSSION POINT ONE: THE BARK CONTROL COLLAR**

Think about something that you really wish you could change about way you act or react. (Do not feel that you need to share this openly.)

You have tried to change this....but how is that going?

Willie the dog barks because....that is his nature!

The bark collar scares him into submission. Is that a happy place for him?

How can you have FREEDOM from the tyranny of this nature we have had since birth?

Do laws and policies really bring us peace and happiness?

How do they fall short of actually helping us?

With this in mind, read Galatians 5:13-26.

What is this "freedom" spoken of in 5:1 and 5:13?

Based on verses 13-16, discuss the differences between freedom and anarchy.

Are we still under any rules or commands?

What is the difference, for the believer, between following external laws and having the power of God's Holy Spirit in our lives?

Take a look at one of the commands that Jesus gave us in John 13:34-35. Is this something we can work up by ourselves?

Compare Luke 6:27-28 and Matt. 5:43-48.

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT TWO: RADICAL INDIVIDUALISM**

Were you raised with the idea that to be a good American, you had to be fiercely independent? "Don't Tread on Me"?

Look briefly at the attitude of one of Cain's descendants in Genesis 4:23-24. Lovely guy to be around, right?

What is the difference between being "individualistic" and being willing to stand up for what you believe?

What about our relationships in the Body of Christ?

How can we disagree in love?

How can we truly love another person, when they think we are idiots for our beliefs?

OK. Loaded question. Galatians 5:22-23 "fruits", "natural results".

How do I go about getting these things to describe me?

Do I have to DO anything?

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Where does studying the Word fit into this discussion?

Where does fellowship and prayer with other believers fit into this?

How can serving others be part of this?

How will following our built-in nature cause some of the results seen in vv. 19-21?

♦ **DISCUSSION POINT THREE: WHAT IS OUR INHERITANCE?**

In the context of this whole book, what inheritance do we believers stand to lose, as stated in Gal. 5: 21b: "...those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."?

Are we presently in God's spiritual kingdom?

Do not confuse this with the future Messianic Kingdom.

What is the context of this whole passage?

Can a life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control be considered an inheritance?

What kind of a church would we inherit if we allowed the Holy Spirit to guide all our interactions?

Would you want to be a part of that?

Would that attract others as well?

♦ **FOR MEDITATION: Spend some time pondering the following:**

If someone were to ask you, "What is the church?", what would your answer be?

What has shaped your present view of the church?

What beliefs or experiences cause you not to want to get involved or to reject the idea that the church is a family?

In what ways might we remain spiritually immature if we do not engage with others in the church family?

In what ways will involvement with our church family encourage and stimulate our spiritual growth?

Is it even likely for us to become like Jesus without being involved with others? How involved was Jesus Himself with others?

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♦ **FOR PRAYER:**

Continue to uphold the Shelter Valley believers, and the GCC team that serves there. Pray for continued growth in understanding among those who attend about God's Plan and what it really means to follow Him.

Pray for the new home groups starting up soon, especially the leaders.

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be seen in Baranganon Island.

Thank God for the encouragement for Benders and Ingvoidstads as the Cuyunan church grows. Ask God for protection from injuries and from sickness.

Pray for the men who are growing in Christ and taking on greater responsibilities on Baranganon Island.

Praise and continued prayer: Continue to uphold the Tagbanwa believers who go to a neighboring island every Friday to teach about God. Pray too for the hearers to respond.

Thank God and uphold in prayer the "TFG" (Time For God) group of children and young folks who meet every day!

Pray with the strong, self-motivated women's group as they study God's Word and grow to be mature believers.