



Let's Not Provoke and Envy One Another

GALATIANS 5:24–26



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WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask each GG member to enumerate things that may cause people to envy others.

WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- We Fall Down
- I Surrender All

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WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

- 1. GG members will commit to resisting the desires of their sinful nature.
- 2. GG members will align their desires with the desires of the Holy Spirit.
- 3. GG members will humble themselves and prioritize the interests of others.

INTRODUCTION

In this section of Scripture (5:16-26), Paul described how believers can walk by the Holy Spirit. When a person places their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, they are given a new divine nature by the Holy Spirit, who begins to live in them. This divine nature frees them from their slavery to their sinful nature, provided they yield to the Holy Spirit's influence in their lives. When they do so, they can resist the sinful nature's desire to be self-centered.

Paul declared that believers have their flesh crucified with Christ (v. 24)

Believers are united with Christ in His death and resurrection. Because of this, their sinful nature has been crucified with Christ on the cross. In the same way, just as Christ rose from the grave, believers are given new lives - holy lives pleasing to God - that they live out through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- 1. What biblical principles do we find in Galatians 2:20 and Romans 6:3-4? What kind of lives do believers have?
- On the flip side, what are the implications of this life in relation to sin? (cf. Romans 6:11-12)

Application

Believers have new lives because they have been resurrected together with Christ. What is preventing you from experiencing this biblical truth in your life, and how might you overcome it?

Paul declared that those given life by the Holy Spirit should walk by the Holy Spirit (v. 25)

Believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit the moment they believed in the good news of the gospel. Since they have the precious gift of the Holy Spirit living in them, they should live in accordance with the desires of the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit enables them to align their desires with God's.

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WORD & WALK: Understanding & Applying the Word

1. How are "walking by the Spirit," "being led by the Spirit," and "living by the Spirit" (all of which mean the same thing) different from being indwelt by the Spirit? (cf. Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 5:18)

2. How did Paul describe the person who walks by the Spirit? (cf. Galatians 5:16, 18)

Application

What are some things you can do so that you can walk closely with the Holy Spirit?

Paul admonished believers not to provoke and envy each other (v. 26)

Paul balanced his teaching by telling the Ephesian church what to do and what not to do. He listed and contrasted the "works of the flesh" with the "fruit of the Spirit" in verses 19-23. The works of the flesh lead people to rivalries, dissensions, and divisions, and Paul admonished the believers not to live that way.

- 1. What is the opposite of being conceited? (cf. Philippians 2:3-4) What differentiates them from each other?
- 2. Paul echoed in this verse what he mentioned in verse 15. How are these two verses similar to each other?

Application

How can you keep yourself from being conceited or envious of others? What kind of attitude counters this?

PRAYER ITEM

Father God, I thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit living in me, giving me freedom from my sinful nature. I pray, Lord, that I surrender to the influence of the Holy Spirit in my life as I immerse myself in Your Word and regularly spend time in communion with You through prayer. Transform my mind and heart so that my desire and will be aligned with Yours. In Christ's name I pray. Amen. ■



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