**Going deeper in Galatians 5:16-26**

**INTRODUCTION –** The Galatian churches are experiencing racial and social division due to a misunderstanding of the truth of the gospel. The Apostle Paul’s letter to the churches declares the radical truth of the gospel which leads to freedom from law as a measuring stick and freedom from the power of sin. In chapter 5, Paul addresses the conflict between our sin-nature, which pushes us to be our won savior and lord, and the Spirit which speaks the beauty and goodness of Christ producing in us the Fruit of the Spirit.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* Galatians 5:16-26

 **16**So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. **17**For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. **18**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**19**The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **20**idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21**and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**22**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23**gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24**Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. **25**Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. **26**Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What motivates you to live a good life?

2. What two things within you are in conflict with each other?

3. If we are made alive by the Spirit, why do we still struggle with sin?

4. Can a person who lives according to their sinful nature be a true Christian?

5. How can you and God’s Spirit weed out the sinful nature and grow the Fruit of the Spirit?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Ask to be filled anew with the power of the Holy Spirit.

\*Pray and ask the Spirit to help you be aware of the times when your sinful-nature takes the lead and to empower you to strengthen your connection to the vine, Jesus Christ.

\*Give thanks for the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which frees us from sin and the yoke of the law!

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

When someone “bumps” into you, what spills out? During the coming week pay Spirit-led attention to how you are responding as you maneuver through the divisive times we are currently experiencing as a country, community and church. Are your responses Spirit led or sin-nature led?