

## Taking It Home:

- Interestingly, 8 of the 15 deeds of the flesh and basically all of the fruit of the Spirit has to do with relationships. Our relationships with others in the church serve as a key barometer for our relationship with Christ.
- In what areas of your life is your flesh winning the battle?
- In what areas of your life is the Spirit winning the battle?
- Galatians 5:25 says, “Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.” The only way to have victory over the flesh is to make Christ the center of your attention in all you do. This week, meditate on these verses to discover the supremacy of Christ:
  - Matthew 16:15-16
  - Luke 3:22
  - Philippians 2:9-11
  - Revelation 22:13

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew’s sermon points, visit [pastormatthew.net](http://pastormatthew.net) and click on the “Write This Down” tab.

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## Walk by the Spirit

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit [www.bethelfc.com](http://www.bethelfc.com).

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of June 24, 2012

Galatians 5:16-26

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**Quick Review:** The key to avoiding the slavery from which we've been rescued is to walk by the power of the Spirit of God. WE are in a war. Our flesh strives against the Holy Spirit working in our lives. Sin management based on law does not work. Only God's Spirit is sufficient and, unlike our human efforts, leads to spiritual fruit that endures.

## My Story:

- Complete this sentence: "Rules are made to be..."
- Can you imagine life without rules? How about something as mundane as a board game without rules? If you have played the game *Monopoly* you may have encountered numerous house rules. For example, some play that all fines and taxes in the game are put in the middle to be collected by the person who lands on "Free Parking." Some play the traveling railroad rule, that is, if you land on a railroad you own you may move to the next railroad you own to continue your move. Playing by other peoples' rules can be quite frustrating. What value do rules bring to society?
- In the course of studying Galatians it has become clear that the Judaizers are frustrated because Paul doesn't want to play by their rules (e.g., circumcision, Sabbath keeping, etc.). For them the laws of Moses were guardrails to prevent them from calamity; for Paul these laws were yokes of slavery. In your opinion, do you find that rules (lists of do's and don'ts) hinder or help your spiritual growth? Explain.

## Growing Deeper:

- Galatians 5:16 says, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." The inevitable result of life lived by the Spirit is the inability to carry out the desires of your sinful nature. For the Judaizers the law was a written code. For New Testament believers, however, God's law is to be Spirit led. Next to each verse listed below, describe the nature of God's law for the believer:
  - Jeremiah 31:33; Hebrews 8:10
  - Galatians 5:13-14
  - John 16:8
  - Matthew 5:17
- Now, next to the verses listed below identify the role of the Holy Spirit:
  - Acts 13:2
  - Acts 15:28
  - Acts 16:6-7
  - Romans 8:4
  - Romans 8:14
- Paul describes the battle between the flesh and the Spirit, contrasting the acts of the sinful nature with the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:19-23). In these passages identify the virtues, both positive and negative, that are related to relationships.