

BELPRES CHURCH

THE WORST NAMED FRUIT

Rev. Scott Mann

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. 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 flesh 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 flesh 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.

– Galatians 5:13-26

Discussion Questions: Read Galatians 5:13-26

1. Notice how many times the concepts of freedom and slavery/control are used throughout this passage. What forces does Paul say can control us? Which ones are good and which bad?
2. What are several ways Paul mentions that help us practice self-control? What erodes our self-control?
3. Note each time Paul mentions the Spirit. How do/could you experience each of these phrases in your life in some way?
4. Can you find seven commands/imperatives (do not/let us...)? Which practical actions we should do or not do seem most important to Paul? What would that look like in your life?
5. How would you summarize Paul's main idea in this passage and what might Jesus want you to do about it?