

Sermon Text Discussion 8/4/2019

Galatians 5:16-24: The Fruit of the Spirit (Drew Hunter)

Overview

God's vision for every Christian is for us to respond to His grace and love by reflecting that grace and love toward one another, and, thereby, transforming the culture of our church and influencing the culture of the world around us. Creating this community filled with joy, peace, and patience is only possible as we each experience growth in gospel character through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Quotation

"Every single truly good work that you've done as a Christian is a result of the Spirit's work in your life." Drew Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) How would you summarize or paraphrase Galatians 5:16-18? How does this text help you understand why living a life pleasing to God is so difficult? Why can falling to a 'desire of the flesh' feel so satisfying, in the moment?
- 2) A category of 'works of the flesh', described by Paul in the text, is relational sin; that is, our behaviors that damage our relationships with others. He lists several, but the exhaustive list is long! With what relational sin do you most struggle? Name that sin's opposite behavior. What steps could you take to move away from the sin and toward its behavioral opposite?
- 3) We are all capable of demonstrating each of the 'fruit of the Holy Spirit' listed in verse 22, but some will come more easily to us than others. Name the fruit that comes most naturally to you and the one with which you struggle most. Share with your small group.
- 4) Explain the following statement: Every single truly good work that you've done as a Christian is a result of the Spirit's work in your life.
- 5) It is obvious we cannot practice most of the 'fruit of the Spirit' in isolation. They are meant to happen in community with others. Name three groups or activities in which you are currently involved which provide an opportunity for you to practice the 'fruit of the Spirit'. Share with your small group.
- 6) Drew shared a story which showed the power of the Holy Spirit to transform a life. It was a story told to him by a man on a recent flight. He had destroyed his marriage through many of the 'desire of the flesh' sins listed in verses 16-18. He had then come to know Christ, remarried the same woman, and had now experienced 28 years of marriage as a transformed husband. Discuss this story as a small group. What examples of Spirit-driven life transformation can you share?