



Community Bible Church  
Sermon Discussion Questions: Feb 19, 2023

**Title:** Fruit-Filled Vs. Fruit Flavored

**Text:** Galatians 5:16-25

**Target:** The fruit of the Holy Spirit begins when the lust of the flesh comes to an end.

- I. **Walk by the Spirit:** *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”* (Vs. 16)
  - A. **The War Within:** *“For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh.”* (Vs.17a)
  - B. **The Will to Win:** *“for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”* (Vs. 17b)

QUESTION #1: Cartoons often depict the struggle between the flesh and the spirit within us as an angel sitting on one shoulder and a devil sitting on the other, both whispering conflicting encouragement to a person facing a moment of temptation. Have you ever experienced this real-life struggle at a moment in your own life? Describe that moment and what it felt like to be pulled in two directions.

- II. **Led by the Spirit:** *“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”* (Vs. 18)
  - A. **The Law demands Perfection:** *“under”* (Vs. 18)
  - B. **The Flesh demands Pleasure:** *“Now the works of the flesh are evident...”* (Vs. 19-21a)
  - C. **The Kingdom demands Pursuit:** *“I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”* (Vs. 21b)

QUESTION #2: Verse 18 shows us that the Spirit desires to lead us to pursue God and the things of His Kingdom. Think about a season when your pursuit of God was at its strongest, and a season when your pursuit was not as strong. What was something you experienced in one season that you did not experience in the other?

- III. **Fruit of the Spirit:** *“But the fruit of the Spirit...”* (Vs. 22a)
  - A. **Singularity of the Fruit:** *“fruit”* (Vs. 22)
  - B. **Source of the Fruit:** *“the Spirit”* (Vs. 22)
  - C. **Subset of the Fruit:** (Vs. 22a-23)

1. **Upward Relationship with God:** *“love, joy, peace”*
2. **Outward Responsibility with Others:** *“patience, kindness, goodness”*
3. **Inward Requirement for Self:** *“faithfulness, gentleness, self-control against such things there is no law.”*

QUESTION #3: Read Matthew 7:15-20 as a group. Jesus wanted his followers to know that the condition of their heart is the root of what influences their actions. While it may be tempting to focus solely on a person's behavior, how could you use the lessons from these two passages (Matthew 7 & Galatians 5) to approach and encourage a person struggling with “fruit” or behavior they want to change?

IV. **Live by the Spirit:** *“If we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”* (Vs. 25)

- A. **Die to Self:** *“And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”* (Vs. 24)
  1. **Daily Decision:** Crucify *“passions”*
  2. **Daily Direction:** Crucify *“desires”*
- B. **Devote yourself:** *“Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”* (Vs. 26)
  1. **Daily Dependency:** Not to be *“conceited”*
  2. **Daily Discernment:** Not to be *“provoking”*
  3. **Daily Discipline:** Not to be *“envying”*

**Takeaway:** Just two choices on the shelf, pleasing God or pleasing self.

QUESTION #4: Living by the Spirit involves dying to yourself while also devoting yourself to God. God is continually inviting us to crucify the passions of our flesh while also devoting our hearts more fully to Him. What is one area of your life where you may either need to crucify fleshly passion or fully devote yourself to God? Discuss as a group the steps you will take and how we can encourage and support one another in our efforts this week.