

GALATIANS 5:16-26;

JOHN 15:9-17

WELCOME.

We are all called to demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit – Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. Which of these do you struggle with, and why?

WORSHIP.

You are the vine, We are the branches,
Keep us abiding in you.

You are the vine, We are the branches,
Keep us abiding in you.

Then we'll grow in your love, then we'll go in your name.

That the world will surely know that you have power to heal and to save.

You are the vine, We are the branches,
Keep us abiding in you.

WORD. READ GALATIANS 5:13-21

1. How would you describe the difference between Gifts, Talents and Fruit? See also 1 Cor 12:7-11; Eph 4:11-13; Romans 12:6-8
2. In v13, Paul talks about freedom. Why must we be careful how we use that freedom (14,15)?
3. Why does Paul say we must live by the Spirit? What is the conflict he is talking about? (16-18). See also Romans 7:15-20
4. In v19, Paul lists the acts of the sinful nature. Discuss them briefly. What is the consequence and warning in v21?
5. In vv22,23, Paul describes the fruit of the Spirit. Discuss these. What does he mean when he says, "Against such things there is no law."
6. What does Paul mean in v24,25, when he says, "Those who belong to Christ have crucified the sinful nature."? Why must we live this way?
7. What is the sting in the tail in v26? Do we think we can live this way of ourselves, or do we need to read John 15?

READ JOHN 15:1-17

8. What is essential about vv9,10? What is so amazing about these 2 verses? Do we really appreciate the depth of God's love – Agape love?
9. What does Jesus mean when he talks about joy and completeness?
10. What is Jesus' command in v12. (Note the little word 'as')? How is that shown in v13?
11. Verses 14,15 mark a new relationship. In what way?
12. Is v16 a surprise to you? why have we been appointed?
13. What do you think is the wider meaning when Jesus talks about bearing fruit?
14. There is only one way that we can continue to bear fruit (1-8). Why is pruning and cutting necessary?
15. What do we demonstrate if we bear this fruit? (8) How is this related to mission?

WITNESS

Pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit for each one of us, that we would faithfully bear good fruit.

Pray for Middlewich, Byley and Winsford. For outreach to those in need.

Pray for those who are ill.

Pray for the Democratic Republic of Congo and especially for the Dioceses of Aru and Boga, that the fighting will cease and peace will return.

Pray for the International Prayer Initiative, "Thy Kingdom Come".