



KINGDOM CULTURE

A Culture of Spiritual Growth

Small Group Discussion Notes

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them? Spend some time discussing the response to the message and the issues that it raised.

Read Galatians 5.13-26

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.*

- Paul is warning church people about the kind of behaviour that will stop them inheriting the Kingdom of God. Is this right? Doesn't Paul usually preach salvation by faith? What's up with this?
- v17. 'the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit.' How does this conflict between flesh and spirit work itself out in your experience? When and how do you feel most inclined to 'gratify the desires of the flesh' and when do you feel most led by the Spirit?
- v22. Take a look at the 'fruit' of the Spirit. What aspect would you most like to develop in? Why is it fruit of the Spirit and not fruits?
- Paul talked about both *living* by the Spirit and *keeping* in step with the Spirit. So what is the life of the Spirit all about - passively allowing fruit to grow or actively making choices?

Pray in 2s and 3s. Confess areas in your life where you tend to gratify the desires of the flesh. Pray for each other to live by the Spirit and develop his fruit more fully. Pray for specific aspects of the fruit of the Spirit you want to grow in.