

Elizabeth Elliott: *“Marriage is death to privacy, independence, childhood’s home and family, death to unilateral decisions and the notion that there is only one way of doing things, death to self. When these little deaths are gladly and wholeheartedly accepted, new life— the glory of sacrificial love which leads to perfect union – is inevitable.”*

- ii. Joy (John 15:11)
- iii. Peace (Romans 8:5-6)
- iv. Patience/Forbearance (Hebrews 12:2-3)

The cross is the pattern for the Christian life. Indeed, not only is Christ's cross the pattern for our lives, he instructs us to go to a cross in order to live it.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Sometimes mockery for following Jesus comes from within telling us we are foolish for laying down our lives, or forgiving, etc. Have you experienced this before? How did you respond?
- How does the way of the flesh run so counter to the way of the cross? How might the cross teach us to say “no” to the desires of the flesh?
- What does it mean to be “led by the Spirit” in the context of Galatians? What is “the Law” which we are not under if we are led by the Spirit?
- How does the Spirit bringing us to the Cross in order to teach us how to die on our cross produce the fruit of the Spirit in us? Be specific to talk about this in relation to each listed fruit.
- Discuss the quote from Elizabeth Elliott (above). For those married, have you found this to be true? For those not married, how does this quote impact you?
- How do we know that our efforts are fruit of the Spirit and not works of the law?

The Cross as a Pattern for Living

Jerry Cisar — August 16, 2015

Text: Galatians 5:18-26

Introduction

A. Following Jesus in a Parade of Fools

Os Guinness: *“...to be a follower of Jesus is to be willing to be a fool for Christ and to join the long tradition of “holy fools” who have graced the story of the church from the beginning....*

“To follow Jesus is to pay the cost of discipleship, and then to die to ourselves, to our own interests, our own agendas and reputations. It is to pick up our crosses and count the cost of losing all that contradicts his will and his way— including our reputations before the world, and our standing with the people and in the communities that we once held dear....”

B. Obeying the call to the cross will distinguish us from the world.

C. Living according to the pattern of the cross is the means by which we will fulfill the law of Christ

I. We are Not Under the Law If We are Led by the Spirit (5:18)

A. Christ sends to the Cross to teach us how to live.

B. What does it mean to be led by the Spirit?

- i. Galatians 3:1-5

ii. Galatians 4:6

The Spirit and the Cross are the means of transforming our whole lives into the holy people of God.

C. What does it mean to not be under the law?

- i. *The law* is not just another word for rules.

- ii. *The law* refers to the Old Covenant here, *the Mosaic covenant*.

D. If not Moses, then who? Jesus!

II. The Works of the Flesh, and the Fruit of the Spirit (5:19-23)

A. Two distinct ways of living: *in the works of the flesh*, or *the fruit of the Spirit*.

B. The works of the flesh grow from a lack of loving our neighbor.

C. The fruit of the Spirit is the fruit born when the Spirit of the Son in us works the nature of the Son into us.

D. The Law condemns everything listed under works of the flesh, it condemns nothing listed under fruit of the Spirit.

III. The Spirit Takes Us to the Cross (Galatians 5:24-26)

A. How does the Spirit produce this fruit in us? *By bringing us to His cross in order to teach us how to die on our cross.*

- i. As believers, the Spirit brings us to the Cross in order to teach us how to die to self on our cross.

- ii. In other places Paul refers to this as *the circumcision, the cutting away of the flesh*. Here, *crucifying*.

➤ John 12:24-26

B. The cross must always be at the center of our living:

- i. Our natures are bent of being the center.

Francis Shaeffer: *Actually we do everything we can...to put ourselves at the center of the universe. This is where we naturally want to live...This was the very crux of the fall. When Satan said to Eve, "you shall not surely die . . . but you shall be like God," she wanted to be like God (Genesis 3:4, 5).*

- ii. Christ's nature is love and the cross is how that is most fully displayed. If we are going to have natures conformed to His, a cross is essential.

C. **This is how fruit is born:** *we die as we lose our life, and as we are figuratively buried, fruit begins to spring up in our lives... the fruit of the Spirit.*

- i. Love (Ephesians 5:2, 25)