**Live Free – Galatians 5:16-23 / Baby Monster**

**This letter is about living free! Dropping the chains of religion.**

**The Bridge: Apostle Paul to the Galatians – false teachers had followed Paul. This is a personal, passionate response for the gospel!**

**The Gospel - Jesus lived, was crucified, buried and rose again to rescue from our sin. That alone is the gospel that saves.**

**Galatians 5:13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.**

**Paul exposes 2 things Christians tend to do, both are flesh**

* **Legalism (The just in case rules)**
* **License (I’ll ask forgiveness later)**

**The cross kills both License & legalism in order to produce Love.**

**Paul makes the case for grace, now challenges us to walk in it.**

**Last week was the fruit of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.**

**THE WALK - Galatians 5:16 - So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

**Def. To recognize the HS in you and learn to follow and yield to his influence in our life.**

**THE WAR – Paul then describes a battle inside**

**Gal 5:17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict – with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.**

**This is what I want to talk about primarily today.**

* **There is a battle going on inside between your flesh and the Spirit**

**Our selfish desires are at war with what the HS desires for us**

**The Spirit (in us) / The Sin Nature (old man)**

**Who is winning in you? If you do not recognize this – you lose**

**Romans 7:21 So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. 24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.**

**Romans 6:6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.**

**The Bible says you are a new creation in Jesus – The old self is dead – no longer slaves to sin – you are a new person!!!**

**Okay - Then why do we still sin? Arggh!**

**Like a Horror movie – The old self is dead… (Ro 6:6) but… He had a child. His name is the flesh. A monster baby. (Paul says kill it!) We need to finish it, but we like to feed it, amuse it, coddle it, play with it, and then it grows. The old man is dead, but the Son of the old man – the flesh, LIVES! And is at war inside us!**

**The Baby Beast!**

* **Don’t feed the beast (the flesh)**

**Galatians 5:16 - So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh Gal 5:17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit…**

**We feed it by what we put in our spirit man – things that will grow the spirit or feed the flesh.**

**Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.**

**Romans 8:5 Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. 9 You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.**

* **The beast (the flesh) is not your friend**

**Gal 5:17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit…**

**The flesh seeks to pull you and others away from Christ**

**God loves you so much for you – but yet when we follow the flesh – it ultimately affects our relationship with God.**

**That habit – that activity – that person – if they are feeding the desires of the flesh – they are not your friend!**

**Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious:**

**Paul describes how the flesh eats us alive!**

**What walking and feeding the flesh monster looks like!**

* **The beast (the flesh) wants to eat us alive!**

**We can’t see the “flesh” but we can see the footprints it leaves behind.**

**The Footprints of the Flesh - monster (4 categories)**

**1 – The footprints in our Sex life**

**Gal 5:19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery…**

**\*\* Paul is saying the Holy Spirit will never walk you there**

**2 – The footprints in our Spiritual life**

**20 idolatry and witchcraft…**

**The human heart is an idol factory – atheism is not the opposite of Christianity – idolatry is.**

**The Holy Spirit will never lead you there**

**3 - The footprints in our Relational life**

**20 …hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy…**

**The Holy Spirit will never walk you there**

**4 - The footprints in our Social life – things committed with others**

**21 … drunkenness, orgies…**

**The Holy Spirit will never lead you there**

**Many people read those and make a list of rules - “the don’ts.”**

**Paul is simply saying – these is the footprints of the flesh monster**

**21 …and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

**It’s not that we will never fail – but we do not walk in them.**

**Basically - If this is your lifestyle you need Jesus.**

**Some of you have faith in Jesus, salvation - but the monster baby is hungry and demanding you to feed it, pulling at you – what do you do?**

**Are you allowing the flesh walk all over you?**

**What’s the answer to the flesh? Gal 5:16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.**

**When we walk in the Spirit - we move in a different direction from the flesh – and the flesh starves.**

**The footprints & fruit of the Spirit of God in us. Galatians 5:22-23 love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

**Not a “to do” list. They are the fruit and footprints of the HS working in you – when you follow him – this follows you.**

**How do we go from fruit of the flesh to the fruit of the Spirit?**

**Paul tells us – we need to Slay the beast!**

* **The beast (the flesh) must die!**

**Gal 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

**\*\*Christ crucified the old self (Ro 6:6) we are to crucify the flesh (Ga 5:24)**

**This is what we must do, by the power of the Holy Spirit in us**

**This is not salvation – this is overcoming the flesh.**

**Romans 8:12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation - but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.**

**By the Spirit of Christ in us – we slay the beast of the flesh.**

**That son of the old man, the flesh does not love you. Don’t feed it, coddle it, or play with it – KILL IT!**

**You either put to death sin or your sin will be the death of you**

**Gal 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh**

* **You can not kill the beast (the flesh) alone**

**Counseling, commitments, promises, and procedures – can’t kill it. But the Spirit of Christ in you can! Only through Jesus!**

**--Christ kills the old self, dead and gone – you are a new person**

**--The power of Christ working in us kills the flesh – being made new**

**\* Christ feeds the new man - we are to starve the flesh**

**You don’t defeat the flesh by focusing on it – you defeat the flesh by focusing on the Spirit (Jesus)**

* **Sometimes the beast (the flesh) dies slowly**

**Gal 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**

**Paul could have used “kill” the flesh but used “crucify”. Speaks of the cross of Christ and reminds us that killing that flesh monster – can be a slow, painful, and fatal. Sin goes kicking & screaming.**

**\*\* Unless you rescue a crucifixion it’s fatal - we tend to rescue sin.**

**Luke 9:23 - Jesus said we need to daily die to self – that’s the flesh –**

**It is a lifelong crucifixion, but its power gets weaker, Nail it to the cross**

**The million dollar question: SO - How can I stop sinning?**

**You can’t – but Jesus in you can – through His spirit in you**

**Prayer**