

Galatians 6: Walking in the Way

2.15-21: Justified = *Dikaiosune*, 'just' or 'righteous' (2 Cor. 3.9, 6.14; Ephesians 4.24; Romans 5.17; 10.3-5)

Genesis 15.5-6 (Romans 4.3): *And (God) brought (Abraham) outside and said, "Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then (God) said to (Abraham), "So shall your offspring be." ⁶And Abraham believed the LORD, and (God) counted it to him as righteousness.*

5.13-18: Life in the Spirit

Do not abuse your Freedom (from slavery to Torah [2.15-21; 3.1-4.11])

'The Spirit and the Flesh'

AW Barclay: 'The flesh is what man has made himself in contrast with man as God made him. The flesh is man as he allowed himself to become in contrast with man as God meant him to be. The flesh is human nature as it has become through sin . . . human nature weakened, vitiated, tainted by sin.' *Flesh and Spirit* 22.

Love/Agape – the ethical obligation of commitment to Christ. Motivated by Christ's love for us.

HD Betz proposed that Paul distinguishes between the 'doing' and the 'fulfilling' of Torah – doing is not required, but fulfilling is. *Galatians* 275. Also Romans 8.4; 13.8, 10

'Love thy Neighbor' – Leviticus 19.18.

16 Hebrew *halak* – 'walk', used repeatedly in the OT to mean 'conduct one's life'

16-18 – Led by the Spirit – Romans 7.14-25. The antidote to license in the Christian life is not laws, but being led by the Spirit, and the Christian life is rooted in and directed by the Holy Spirit.

5.19-26: The Works of the Flesh and the Fruit of the Spirit

The OT does not contain catalogues of virtues and vices. This form derives from Greek philosophy – Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Rhetoric* and *Nicomachean Ethics*. Especially from Zeno (c. 308 B.C.) and the Stoics.

Mark 7.21-22; Romans 1.29-31; 1 Cor. 5.9-11; 6.9-10; Ephesians 4.31-32; 5.3-5; Colossians 3.5-8

15 Listed Vices: *Porneia* – unlawful and immoral sexual relationships; **morally dirty/impure** (20 times in LXX); **licentiousness/debauchery** – 'a love of sin so reckless and so audacious that a man has ceased to care what God or man thinks of his actions' (*Flesh and Spirit* 31); **idolatry**; *pharmakeia* – dispensing drugs (to poison people), a la witchcraft (used in Rev. 9.21 and 18.23); **enmity/hostility/hatred**; **quarreling/discord** (Rom 1.29; 13.13; 1 Cor. 1.11; 3.3; etc); **envy/jealousy** (1 Cor.3.3; James 3.14-16); **anger/fits of rage** (2 Cor. 12.20; Eph. 4.31; Colossians 3.8); **selfish ambition** (Rom. 2.8; 2 Cor. 12.20; Phil 1.17); **dissent/ sedition** (Rom. 16.17); **factions** (1 Cor. 11.19; 2 Peter 2.1); **malice/envy** (Matt.27.18; Mark 15.10; Romans 1.29); **drunkenness**; **carousing/orgies** (Romans 13.13; 1 Peter 4.3)

21b – 'Those who do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God' (Mark 10.15 etc)

22-23a The Fruit of the Spirit – great memory verse

'Self control': an ethical term introduced by Socrates used 4 times in the NT (Acts 24.25; 2 Peter 1.6; Titus 1.8).

24 The Selfless, Sacrificial Death of Christ on the Cross is the central salvific theme of Galatians

The Role of the Spirit in the life of faith

'keep in step' with the Spirit – 'to agree with', 'be aligned with'; Philippians 3.16; Acts 21.24

6.1-10: Walking in the Spirit = Doing Good

Paraptoma – transgression, sin, trespass – lit. 'to fall beside' or 'a false step'

Restoration of an *adelphoi* – word used for repairing nets (Matt. 4.21; Mark 1.19); Jeremiah 29.11; Job 42.10; 2 Corinthians 13.11

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill **the law of Christ.**" **Galatians 5.14** – In contrast to Torah

5 'Bear his own load' – How does this relate to 6.2?

6 instruction in 'the *logos*' – The Christian message (1 Cor. 1.18; 2 Cor. 5.19; Ephes. 1.13; Phil. 1.14; etc.)

7-9 God is not mocked - lit. 'to turn up the nose at', 'to treat with contempt'

'reap/sow' proverb – Proverbs 22.8; 1 Corinthians 9.11; Luke 19.21-22

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Christian perseverance – **2 Thessalonians 3.13**; Hebrews 12.1-3; Philippians 3.14; James 1.12;

"By perseverance the snail reached the ark." Charles Spurgeon

6.11-18: Closing Words

'my own hand' – what large letters? 'The boldness of the handwriting answers to the force of the Apostle's convictions' (Lightfoot 221)

12-14 – Paul circles back to the presenting issue and his rebuke/argument

15 'A New Creation' – 2 Cor. 5.17: 'If anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.'

16 'Walk' by this rule – 6.2; 5.16-25 - Paul contrasts walking 'in the flesh' with following Christ

What is the promise for those who walk 'in the Spirit'?

17 'The brand marks of Christ' – *stigmata*; Paul's infirmity and scars – Galatians 4.13-14; 2 Tim. 1.12; Paul was stoned in Lystra (Acts 14.19), at Philippi (Acts 16.22);

18 The Grace Benediction – 2 Corinthians 13.14; Romans 16.24; 1 Thessalonians 5.28