

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:16-17

I. THE APOSTLE PROVIDES AN EMPHATIC ASSURANCE THAT WALKING IN THE SPIRIT IS THE ANTIDOTE TO THE DANGER OF USING LIBERTY AS A BASE OF OPERATION FOR THE FLESH (5:16)

- A. Christians Usually Have One Of Two Responses To That Assurance
 - 1. Younger Believers Typically Want To Learn More About The Dynamics Of It
 - 2. Older Believers Very Often Acknowledge The Scripture To Be True But Lament That This Has Not Been Their Personal Experience

- B. Nevertheless, This Assurance Is Stated In The Inerrant Scripture In The Most Emphatic Way Possible
 - 1. Paul Here Uses The Most Powerful Combination For A Double Negative
 - 2. Compare This Construction With Other Similar Statements
 - i. Matthew 5:18
 - ii. John 10:28
 - iii. Hebrews 13:5

II. THE APOSTLE PROVIDES AN EXPLANATION, NOT NECESSARILY HOW THIS WORKS, BUT WHY THIS WORKS (5:17-18)

- A. Let's Begin With A Process Of Elimination
 - 1. Paul Is Careful Not To Explain It In Terms Of Anything We Are Doing Ourselves
 - 2. Paul Is Careful Not To Explain It In Terms Of The Influence Or Lack Of Influence Of Others

- B. Walking In The Spirit Works Because The Holy Spirit Is The Greater Entity Within The Constant, Inherent & Unalterable Antagonism Between Himself And Our Flesh [Sin Nature] (5:17)