



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: Freedom, Self-Control and the War Within Us

Speaker: Redd Sevilla, Executive Director, New Life CDC

Scripture: Galatians 5:13-21//Matthew 13:44-46

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Matthew 13:44-46

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. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 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. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 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. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:13-21

Sermon Outline:

- I. Adam and Eve had to choose between self-control and doing what they wanted.
- II. Paul is addressing people within the church when he talks about acts of the flesh.
- III. When we partake in desires of the flesh, we are not only harming ourselves but most often harming or using others.
- IV. To avoid desires of the flesh Paul says we must walk in the Spirit.
- V. To walk in the Spirit is to "serve one another humbly in love."
- VI. Service is any outward act for the benefit or the honor of another.
- VII. Belonging to Christ is the trigger for a new direction.
- VIII. The kingdom of heaven is like the treasure hidden in the field. The kingdom is the merchant and you are the Pearl, He sold everything He had and bought it. (Matthew 13:44-46)

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday New Life's CDC Executive Director Redd Sevilla continues the Fruit of the Spirit series based on self-control.

Sermon Questions:

- I. What words or phrases from this scripture passage resonated in you as you read them? Why?
 - In your family of origin, what restrictions did your parents/guardians place on you? How does that effect the way you react to certain restrictions today?
 - Why does Paul direct this message to Christians in the church? What is his goal?
 - What conflicts do you have today with self-control? What do you find triggers you to act out? What are you feeling right before those moments?
 - If service can set you on a new trail away from desires of the flesh, in what way can you serve someone this week? How can you regularly incorporate that into your life?
 - Knowing that God gave it all for your freedom, so we would not be enslaved, how does that change your view of your value? On the value of others?