



## Study + Discussion Sheets

[For The Week of April 2<sup>nd</sup>]

"A NEW PRESENCE"

Dig deeper into the text from Sunday's message on April 2, 2017 which was based on Galatians 5:16-26.

Read Galatians 5:16-26.

### QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TEXT:

#1. Read Galatians 5:16-24. For some people the Holy Spirit is the vaguest member of the Trinity (i.e., God as Father, Son, & Holy Spirit). For others He is understood and experienced as vital to their Christian walk. How do you see the Holy Spirit in your spiritual life?

#2. Read 5:16-17. According to these verses, what's going on inside every Christian? What's encouraging about this truth? What's challenging about it?

#3. The word for "desires" (epithymēō) in vs. 16 literally means over-desires - we feel like we absolutely must have something. It's a controlling drive or longing for something. These sinful desires often take a good thing (like money and sex) and turn it into a god-thing. How can this insight better equip us to wrestle against our sinful desires.

#4. Read the "acts/works of the flesh" in 5:19-21. Which of these sinful activities are most accepted within our culture? Which of these sinful activities are frequently accepted within the church community?

#5. Compare the "works of the flesh" (vs. 19-21) to the "fruit of the Spirit" (vs. 22-23). What are the main differences between them?

#6. Read 5:24. What do you think it means to crucify "the sinful nature with its passions and desires?" How do we do this?

#7. Read 5:25. What do you think it means to keep in step with the Spirit? How do we do this?

### ASSIGNMENT/EXERCISE FOR THE WEEK:

Developing spiritual fruit and growth isn't found in a life bent on living comfortably. We must be willing to say "no" to certain "comforts" and/or false entitlements in order to begin seeing and experiencing God in new ways. (This is what "crucifying" the flesh is all about.)

Pray that you would have the courage and resolve to this week to begin seeking and finding and experiencing God in new ways. Ask God the Holy Spirit to produce his fruit in your life.