

It Sticks With You

An Embrace of Both Unity and Holiness

February 19, 2023

Galatians 5v2-26

2 Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. 4 You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love. 7 You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? 8 Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. 10 I am confident about you in the Lord that you will not think otherwise. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. 11 But my friends, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offence of the cross has been removed. 12 I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves! 13 For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence,[d] but through love become slaves to one another. 14 For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' 15 If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. 16 Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, 21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

What if God is inviting us into a way of being human in which involves an embrace of both unity and holiness?

A culture in desperate need of need models + A people called by God to play a role in his world

Other things that by themselves are easy, but together are difficult

v2-5

v6

How then will we know whose is in or how to live?

Simple, and demanding

But how will we pull "faith and love" off without the law?

V14-15, 26

Then the fruit of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit are considered.

First, notice the section is addressed to a community of people, not to an individual. And notice the main emphasis, or benefit, is toward unity and holiness - both, not one!

Vs16-26

Notice the how is "by the Spirit."

Unity without holiness is easy. Holiness without unity is easy. Unity and Holiness is quite difficult, and something accomplished through the grace of God's Spirit.

Notice the what is "unity and holiness"!

How might God be talking to you about unity and holiness?

Book: *Galatians* by N. T. Wright; *Why Lent?* (See worksheet provided at Gatherings or email adam@narratechurch.org for a digital copy.)
Songs: In Dreams (Preview), Beautiful Things, Doxology, Holy Spirit, Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me, Multiplied
Looking to Connect?: One of the staff would love to meet for a walk, on the phone, or for a beverage. To schedule a time please visit our website and click on the "Meet with Staff" button on the home page.