

w/b 5th March ONE-ANOTHER-ING: SERVE ONE ANOTHER (Tim Cowles)

GALATIANS 5:13-26

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ 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.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

LAUNCH

What is your favourite hobby, pursuit or pastime? What makes you so enthusiastic about it? As a Christian how is it possible to pursue this pastime 'in the flesh' and how is it possible to pursue it 'in the Spirit'.

- Now consider what gifting you might have (eg organising, teaching etc).
Again consider how that gifting can either be directed in the Spirit or in the flesh.

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

How is it that we were called to be free as Christians? How does this relate to Adrian Horner's word about living in a house of mercy rather than a house of judgement?

- What are some of the less obvious or subtle ways in which the modern Christian can use their freedom to indulge the flesh?
- Give a minor recent example in which you felt the flesh waged war against the Spirit in your life
- In what ways is God calling you to 'serve one another humbly' in the church?
Are there any new avenues of service that he may be calling you down?
- One commentator talked about the fact that each of us has a besetting sin – in other words a type of sin that repeatedly seems to trip us up. Spend some time in personal prayer asking God whether you need help from the list in vs 19-21. If brave & comfortable feel free to share
- Which aspect of the fruit of the Spirit would you like to see ripen more in your life?
Is there any way in which you can help cultivate this?

APPLICATION

Spend time praying that all in the group would live increasingly more by the Spirit and increasingly less by the flesh. Also spend time praying for future paths of gifting that God may be calling you to walk down.