



## *From Here to There*

**A New Kind of Life**

Galatians 5:16-21

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**The command**

**The contrast**

**The consequences**



## Overview

Most of us know that there is more to life in Christ than we are experiencing. However, too many of us never really catch a vision for what that kind of life might be. This fall we are going to attempt to do that by studying a passage of Scripture that gives us insight and hope in this quest. That passage is Galatians 5:16-26. In this opening message we will look at the contrast of life apart from God and life in the Spirit. This will show us why it is imperative not to stay “here.” We will also see how the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit sets us free from both legalism and our own weaknesses to lead us deeper into a life that more consistently displays the image of Christ. This is the “there” that we are moving toward.

## Engaging with each other

1. In the movie *Forrest Gump*, Forrest famously quotes his mother saying, “Life is like a box of chocolates.” How would you finish this line: Life is like...?

## Engaging with the Bible

1. The NIV translates the command in v. 16 as “live by the Spirit.” It is literally, “walk around in the Spirit.” It is also in the present tense, which indicates an action that is done continually. What do you think this implies?
2. The word translated “sinful nature” is literally “flesh.” At the end of verse 21 Paul states that those who continually practice these things will not inherit the Kingdom of God. This is in direct contrast to walking around in the Spirit. Who is he describing here, a Christ follower or one who doesn’t know Christ?

3. In the book of Galatians, Paul teaches that because of what Christ has done we are no longer under the Law. One of the natural questions that arises is if there is no Law, won’t people just do what they want? How does what Paul teaches in our passage deal with this? (verses 16 & 18)
4. This passage is set in the context of life in the community of faith. Furthermore, over half of the works of the flesh listed by Paul deal with breakdowns in interpersonal relationships. Why is this so important?

## Engaging with our lives

1. Think about your interpersonal relationships. What are they characterized by?
2. While true followers of Christ do not live lives characterized by the acts of the flesh, they can fall into these sins from time to time or in certain seasons of life. What does your lifestyle indicate about what is most true of you?