



## How We Relate to One Another

March 10th-11th, 2018

SERIES:

SPEAKER: John Williamson (Timberlake/Downtown), Stephen Rabon (Altavista)

STUDY GUIDE: Christopher Shafer

### CONNECT (5-10 min)

**Leaders Note:** *The purpose of this time is to help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members.*

### GROW – Review the Message Summary (30-45 min)

#### Read: Galatians 5:13-25

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 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 keep in step with the Spirit.

#### Notes...

##### Rules of Engagement

- CALLED to live in FREEDOM as FAMILY (v.13a)
- We have NOT been set free to INDULGE the FLESH but to SERVE OTHERS (vv.13b-15)
- It is IMPERATIVE that we STAND FIRM in this freedom (v. 1)

##### The Spirit and the flesh are archenemies (vv. 16-21)

- Life in the Spirit means learning to WALK by THE SPIRIT as we DENY the FLESH (v.16)
- The SPIRIT and the FLESH are in a constant BATTLE for MASTERY over our lives (vv. 17-19)
  1. The Spirit helps us to CRUCIFY the FLESH and its PASSIONS (vv.19-21)
  2. The flesh seeks to ABORT the QUALITIES that THE SPIRIT wants to PRODUCE in us (vv.22-25)

**Bottom Line:** Live by the Spirit

##### For those not yet living a Jesus-centered life

- Ask JESUS to set you FREE

##### For those living a Jesus-centered life

- PRAY for the HOLY SPIRIT to SANCTIFY us through and through.
- LIVE in the FREEDOM that CHRIST has already WON for us.
- Use your freedom to SERVE OTHERS rather than INDULGE your PASSIONS.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Start this week off reflecting on what Galatians 5 has to say about how we are to engage, serve, and love one another! Spend some time in prayer for each other and then jump into the text for a quick review.
2. Read Romans 6: 1-14 out loud as a group. Focus on the language Paul uses in this passage... "Let not sin therefore **REIGN** in your mortal bodies." Discuss these follow up questions about the text:
  - a What does it mean in verse 11 to consider yourself dead to sin?
  - b The Greek word for baptism means "to immerse or wash" ...so what image do verses 3-4 truly display when it comes to our allegiance to Christ?
  - c The question remains, what sins have you still be hoarding? How have you not prized Jesus in this willful act and what is His Spirit calling you to do in obedience to our reality that is in Christ?
3. Read and discuss the implications of this quote about dying to ourselves. "When He [God] talks of their losing their selves, He means only abandoning the clamour of self-will; once they have done that, He really gives them back all their personality, and boasts (I am afraid, sincerely) that when they are wholly His they will be more themselves than ever."  
— **C.S. Lewis, The Screwtape Letters**
4. What prevents you from serving others rather than indulging your own passions?
5. What lies have you been believing that you need to confess corporately so that you may live in the freedom that Christ has already won for us?

**OPTIONAL Throughout the Week: 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting for the 7 Pillars of Influence in Culture**

**Monday, Day 27:** Pray for the Civil Servants- Police, Firefighters, and Others Who Serve in Our Communities  
Read Philippians 2:3-8

**Tuesday, Day 28:** Pray for Crime and Violence- Drug Cartels, Drug Trafficking, and Organized Crime  
Read Psalm 11:1-7

**Wednesday, Day 29:** Pray for Justice- The Courts and Judges of America  
Read Proverbs 2:1-9

**Thursday, Day 30:** Pray for Personal Prayer List for Government.

On day 30 of this season of prayer, take special time to pray for those aspects of the sphere of "Government" that God has specifically impressed on your heart. Take time to write down the names of the men or women who serve in the high offices of government that directly represent you at the state or national level. Pray for these people by name. Pray for the President of the United States

**Friday, Day 31:** Pray for Media- Radio, Television, Print, and Internet  
Read Ephesians 2:1-7