

## Central Growth Groups #5: December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021: "Our Story"

### Galatians 5:16-26

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy,<sup>[d]</sup> drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do<sup>[d]</sup> such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

<sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

### BOTTOM LINE

YOUR STORY IS EITHER MOVING TOWARD LOVE OR AWAY FROM IT.

### Topic Discussion Questions

WHAT'S SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE THAT YOU'RE CONSTANTLY MEASURING OR CHECKING UP ON? \_\_\_\_\_

HOW WOULD MOST PEOPLE MEASURE OR DEFINE SPIRITUAL GROWTH? \_\_\_\_\_

GIVE AN EXAMPLE IN THE PAST WEEK WHERE YOU HAVE DISPLAYED THE FRUIT OF GOD'S SPIRIT IN SOME WAY. \_\_\_\_\_

ULTIMATELY, WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO PRODUCE THE KIND OF FRUIT PAUL TALKS ABOUT IN GALATIANS? READ JOHN 15:4 AS A GROUP. WHAT DOES THIS VERSE SAY ABOUT OUR RESPONSIBILITY WHEN IT COMES TO PRODUCING FRUIT? \_\_\_\_\_

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE FOR SOMEONE'S LIFE TO MOVE TOWARD LOVE? WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE FOR A LIFE TO MOVE AWAY FROM LOVE? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER ATTRIBUTES OF GOD'S FRUIT THAT PAUL MENTIONED IN GALATIANS? WALK THROUGH EACH ATTRIBUTE AND TALK ABOUT WHAT IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE TO MOVE TOWARD KINDNESS, PEACE, SELF-CONTROL, ETC. THEN TALK ABOUT WHAT IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE ATTRIBUTES THAT COME AS A RESULT OF NOT FOLLOWING GOD. \_\_\_\_\_

HOW COULD YOUR LIFE STORY BE BETTER IF YOU MOVE TOWARD LOVE (AND PEACE AND PATIENCE, ETC.) IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS? \_\_\_\_\_

## Central Growth Groups #6: December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021: “Our Story”

### Romans 7:15-25

For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. <sup>17</sup> So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. <sup>19</sup> For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup> So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, <sup>23</sup> but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup> Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

### BOTTOM LINE

**GOD DOESN'T USE PERFECT PICTURES. HE USES BROKEN PEOPLE.**

### Topic Discussion Questions

**WHAT'S ONE THING YOU'VE LEARNED FROM THIS SERIES SO FAR? HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE IDEA OF CHANGING YOUR LIFE STORY? ENCOURAGED, OVERWHELMED, CHALLENGED?**

**DESCRIBE YOUR IDEA OF A “PERFECT CHRISTIAN.”**

**EVERY ONE OF US STILL SINS AFTER BECOMING A CHRISTIAN. WHAT'S YOUR KNEE-JERK REACTION WHEN YOU MESS UP? WHAT DO YOU THINK IS GOD'S REACTION? \_\_\_\_\_**

**HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL TO KNOW THAT SCRIPTURE — GOD'S STORY—IS FULL OF MISFITS AND PEOPLE WHO FAILED?**

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO DIFFERENTLY IF YOU WERE CERTAIN THAT GOD CAN USE YOU EXACTLY AS YOU ARE?**

**OTHER THAN YOU, WHOSE LIFE STORY COULD BE AFFECTED IF YOU DECIDED TO LET GOD USE YOU, DESPITE YOUR FAILURES?**

**AS A GROUP, HOW CAN WE HELP YOU NOT TO GIVE UP WHEN YOU MESS UP? \_\_\_\_\_**