

New Sermon Series: Living in the Spirit

10/27/24 “Loving One Another,” Galatians 5:7-15, MEV

INTRODUCTION Who has seen someone confused by false teaching?

False teachers are used by Satan to derail us and separate us from God (Gal. 5:4)

MAIN IDEA: We need to stay on Jesus’ narrow path. How do I stay on it? Here are two things to do.

I. First, recognize the enemy’s methods for getting us off it.

A. **Hindrance:** to beat back, break up the road, making it impassable (7)

Obey: to have confidence in, to follow **Truth:** reality

1. false teaching “blocks” our path with Jesus or intimidates us from following it
2. causes us to question what we believe
3. causes us to take a “new” or old direction

EX:

B. **Persuasion:** something we surrender to, accept (8)

1. does not come from God
2. a little false teaching can affect our relationship, one rotten apple can spoil the bushel (9)
3. causes us to think “otherwise” (10a), influencing our affection, will, choices away from Jesus

think otherwise: implying not only thought but also the affections—will or moral considerations (more than just thinking)

EX:

C. **Trouble:** anxiety caused by fear or confusion; to turn upside down, cause to depart (10b, 12)

1. false teaching can cause us fear—about something we “didn’t know” or “didn’t understand
2. false teaching can confuse us, causing doubt about what we believe or thought we knew

3. our faith or belief weakens with doubt

4. we cannot stand firm, our shield is weakened, our sword becomes floppy, our minds are vulnerable

EX:

D. **opportunity:** a starting point, a falling out

1. enemy will focus us on our flesh, which always wants to disobey Jesus
2. if we consider liberty to be “do what I want,” our flesh will push toward sin
3. liberty is actually freedom from sin to follow Jesus
4. focusing on our flesh leads to conflict (15)

EX:

APPLICATION: If we are struggling because of something we have heard that conflicts with what we have been taught, we should stop and consider that we may be under spiritual attack.

II. Second, actively use God’s protection.

A. faithfulness to the scriptures (the Bible—the Truth) (7)

- must be*
1. not accepting anything added (Rev. 22:18)
- in*
2. not accepting anything being left out (Rev. 22:19)
- the word*
3. not accepting a different path, interpretation

B. willingness to stand with Jesus

1. cross offends, brings persecution
2. must not be surprised or intimidated
3. Holy Spirit will strengthen us & help us
4. strive for goal: redemption of bodies (Rom 8:23)

C. service to others in love (13-15)...Jesus-focus breeds selflessness, love, Spirit-empowered life

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: Fearful? Struggling because of a false belief (God doesn’t love me because...)? Intercede for someone who is struggling?