

**THE HOLY SPIRIT:
THE FORGOTTEN THIRD MEMBER OF THE TRINITY
NOVEMBER 7, 2021**

1. Read Galatians 5:16-26. Make 4-5 observations on these verses. What do they teach us about the Holy Spirit? What is the big idea being taught?
2. Can you relate to what Paul is describing about competing desires seeking our attention? What is Paul's solution to the conflict between fleshly desires and the Spirit's desires? See verses 16, 24, 25, and also Romans 8:5.
3. Of the sinful traits listed in verses 19-21, which are frequently tolerated by Christians today? Why do you think these are considered less serious than the others? Are they really less serious than the others?
4. Verse 19 describes the sinful habits as *acts* or "*works of the flesh*," but verse 22 contrasts those with the "*fruit of the Spirit*." What does the metaphor of "fruit" contrasted with *works* tell you about the way these good traits grow in your life?
5. Notice that verse 22 says the "fruit" of the Spirit, which is singular, rather than the plural "fruits" of the Spirit. This means that these traits all grow together, and we cannot pick and choose which ones we like or do not like. This is important because our personality types will naturally display some traits which come easily to us and others that are more difficult. What implications can you draw from this? How does this help you measure your spiritual growth?
6. Where in these verses do you see God's gracious working to help people grow? Where do you see human responsibility to grow? Why are both essential?
7. When this passage says that we are to "walk by the Spirit", the verb translated "walk" is a command that indicates continuous, ongoing action. How does this help us understand the Christian life?
8. A younger Christian comes to you and asks, "I want to grow spiritually? How can I change my life?" What would you say?