



Sermon Main Idea:

The fruit of our lives is not from ourselves, but from what Christ did on the cross. If you want to see more fruit in your life, start by accepting God's acceptance of you.

Introduction:

1. What are some things that you can do to a plant to produce better fruit?
2. Who is someone you know that you can see the fruit of the Spirit alive in his/her life? How does that impact his/her relationships?

SORP:

Scripture | read Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Observation | what do we notice? what stands out?

1. Contrast the idea of "[using] your freedom to indulge the flesh" with "[serving] one another humbly in love" from verse 13.
2. How does "[walking] by the Spirit" reach both those who are slaves to the law and those who are slaves to the flesh? (verses 16-18)
3. What do you think Paul meant when he said, "those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God"? (verse 21) How does this align with the idea of being led by the Spirit?
4. What might it look like to "[crucify] the flesh with its passions and desires"? How would that impact one's ability to be led by the Spirit? (verse 24)
5. When Paul said, "since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit," what might he have been trying to say to the Galatians? (verse 25)

Response | how can we respond in our lives to what we learn?

1. What are some areas of indulging the flesh that followers of Jesus struggle with today in our culture? What are these struggles a result of?
2. On the spectrum of being a slave to the flesh to being a slave to sin, where do you lie? In other words, do you struggle more with taking your freedom too far or clinging to rules?
3. What does it mean to "accept God's acceptance of you"?
4. What might it look like for you to take a step toward accepting God's acceptance of you?
5. How might God be calling you to respond to His Word today?

Prayer | ask God to help you live out your response