

Bible Chat week starting 27 23

Galatians 5: 13 - 26

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' 15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

1. If you were a new minister for food in the UK government, what policies would you put in place?
2. Paul contrasts here the way of the flesh with the way of the Spirit. But flesh is good! So much of what we do with our bodies is wholesome, natural and positive. Being aware of this, discuss what on earth Paul might mean by 'the acts of the flesh'.
3. Paul lists several examples of the acts of the flesh. How does the list compare with the bad things that are happening around us today? Does it need any updating, or is it still about right?
4. Reflect on the fruit of the Spirit. Fruit takes time to grow. In order to grow it needs to remain part of the plant, and it requires nourishment, water, warmth, protection and sunlight. What encourages the fruit of the Spirit to grow in your life?
5. Discuss how people who live by the Spirit might enjoy food. Try to come up with some practical ways of sharing food that you could enjoy together and with others.