

Follow the Leader
Matthew 7:13-27

Review:

1. Given how hard it is to find and follow the way of Christ, we need good leaders to follow if we are going to make Christ the firm foundation of our lives
2. We need folks to teach us the truth and show us the way, but we must not judge the quality of their leadership based solely on their knowledge or their skills
3. The only sound test of anyone's faith is the fruit of his life – putting Christ's words into action best demonstrates our spiritual vitality

Go Further: Read Galatians 5:13-26

1. According to verse 13, in what way should Christians not use their liberty to do? How should they live instead?
2. How does Paul summarize the Law of God in verse 14?
3. What behavior does Paul warn us against in verse 15? What does he say will be the result of such actions?
4. What choice does Paul place before us in verse 16?
5. What two things does Paul place in opposition in verse 17? What does this conflict prevent us from doing?
6. What does Paul say is true in verse 18 of those who are led by the Spirit?
7. Paul lists seventeen characteristics of the flesh beginning in verse 19. Which of these are actions, and which are feelings?
8. What does Paul say in verse 21 will happen to those who practice such fleshly living?
9. In verses 22 and 23, Paul describes nine characteristics of the one fruit of the Spirit. What are these?
10. In verse 23, how does Paul say that the fruit of the Spirit relates to the Law of God?
11. In verse 24, what does Paul say that those who belong to Christ have done?
12. In verse 25, what does Paul encourage Christians to do?
13. In contrast, what does verse 26 encourage us not to do?

Apply:

1. How have you experienced the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit? In what areas of your own life have you had to choose between the two?
2. Take an honest look at how Paul describes the flesh. Which of these things do you find it most difficult to resist?
3. Paul uses the term "flesh" to describe the sort of life lived in opposition to the Spirit of God, but some of the characteristics of this sort of living deal with our thoughts and feelings. Why do you think he uses this word? How does "fleshly" living appeal to our worldly bodies and minds?
4. Paul says there is no law against the fruit of the Spirit. What do you think He means? How would demonstrating the fruit of the Spirit in our daily lives keep us from breaking God's Law?