



Lesson 18: Give us what we want!

Re-read Romans 12:1-2. Are we called to blend in or to be set apart?

Read Galatians 5:16-24. The works of the sinful flesh are evident. List the works of the sinful flesh. These are things we are to avoid, not things we are to long for.

What are the fruits of the Spirit?

Note, the fruits of the Spirit is not a checklist. It is not something you can have on your own, without the Spirit. It is through the work of the Spirit that these things become evident in your life.

Read Matthew 6:19-21. What are we not to lay up for ourselves? What are we to lay up for ourselves? Why? (Verse 21)

Read Philippians 1:17-26. What is Paul's desire? What is Paul convinced of? Does Paul sound dejected because his desire will not be fulfilled yet?

The Israelites wanted a King. They wanted to be like the other nations. Their desire was to look like the world, to be like the world, to blend in. The Israelites were continually whiny, complaining, angry and even bitter when their desires were not fulfilled.

Paul's desire was to glorify Christ in all that he did. Paul was content and joyful in all circumstances; even in the midst of the prisons in Rome. The difference was their focus. Paul wanted what God wanted; the Israelites had their own agenda.

Consider whether you want what He wants. Whether you want His glory, or yours. Consider whether your outlook is perpetually whiny and negative, or joyful, peaceful, and content. Where does your desire need to shift in order to be focused on Him so that, in everything, you may have the peace that only He can give?