



The Real You ~ Part 2

Galatians 5:22-26

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Introduction

Tom Fuller has been teaching the Word since 1977. It is a driving force in his life to communicate God's truth in a way that will encourage growth and maturity in the body of Christ. Tom has studied and worked under such teachers as Chuck Smith, Jon Courson, and Rick Booye.

Tom's teachings are now heard around the world thanks to the Internet. The Lord has especially used his teaching ministry to train and encourage pastors, missionaries, and lay workers in spreading the gospel and teaching God's word in a way that is applicable to everyday life.

Tom was ordained a minister of the gospel by Trail Christian Fellowship in October of 1988. Tom began ministry in 1977, leading worship and teaching a Bible study at UCLA. In the years since he has served as elder, worship leader, and vocational assistant pastor at churches both large and small in California and Oregon. Tom and his wife, Margaret, have led worship for the past twenty five years together.

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In the old nature it is all about fulfilling my needs my way (which really means the world's way). In the new nature I know the source of fulfillment is in the Lord Jesus (even if I don't always rely on Him for it perfectly) but my focus now changes to assisting others to see their needs fulfilled through their own relationship with the Lord.

Because I am secure in God and know I am completely in His hands and under His control I am not rattled by difficulty in my life and can act in love even towards those who do not act loving to me. In 1st Corinthians 13 Paul delves even more into this quality of agape love.

Galatians 5:24 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (HCSB)

Here's how Paul put this same idea in Romans:

Romans 6:6-11 For we know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that sin's dominion over the body may be abolished, so that we may no longer be enslaved to sin, 7 since a person who has died is freed from sin's claims. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him, 9 because we know that Christ, having been raised from the dead, no longer dies. Death no longer rules over Him. 10 For in that He died, He died to sin once for all; but in that He lives, He lives to God. 11 So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (HCSB)

Amidst all of the pressure from this age to continue to conform to its desires, you actually do have a choice. Practice that choice and you will find yourself better able to have self-control. It's much like practicing a musical instrument. God gives you the ability to play, you just need to practice!

How do you do that? Part of it is this "walking" with the Spirit:

Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. (HCSB)

Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, we must also follow the Spirit. 26 We must not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. (HCSB)

The word "if" could also be translated "Since." Since you have been given new life by the Spirit of God you should then be able to "follow" or live by the Spirit fulfilling your desires, changing your character, and leading you to be a useful tool in God's tool bag.

To "follow" or "walk" is Greek *stoicheo* which means "to march in rank" or "to keep step." This is different than in verse 16. There, the Greek word *paripateo* means "to be occupied with." As we focus on our relationship with God, and He begins to work out

His character in our lines, we will find ourselves much more able to get in line with how he thinks, speaks, and acts. Legalism tries to do it the other way around—get us to march in line as a way to change us.

Galatians 5:26 We must not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. (HCSB)

Verse 26 might seem out of place, but Paul is probably just calling out the three things that were of the old nature that he saw happening in the Galatian churches: conceit, provocation, and envy. These are some of the same main problems that we have today:

- **Pride**, which is depending on yourself and not on God
- **Provocation** which is when you insist on your way instead of relying on God's power flowing through you to influence others
- **Envy** which wants what someone else has instead of being satisfied in the Lord where you are.

Some final thoughts:

Who you really are is you at your worst and weakest. That's how you can get a feeling for your journey of transformation. It isn't meant to condemn but give you a reality check. Maybe it's a good opportunity to start a conversation with God from there.

Who you are is more important than what you do for God.

Matthew 7:22-23 On that day many will say to Me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in Your name, drive out demons in Your name, and do many miracles in Your name?' 23 Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you! (HCSB)

The fruit Paul talks about in verses 22 and 23 doesn't involve our works, like how many converts we get, but how God is changing our minds, attitudes, speech, and actions.

So as you tool down the interstate of life, look for the "Do Not Enter – Wrong Way" signs of the old nature. Acting in these ways is a warning that we are perhaps not cooperating fully with the Holy Spirit. But also look for the way markers, the "fruit" of the Spirit changing you. It's an opportunity to celebrate as you become more and more yielded and more and more transformed!

Old Nature:

Self-satisfied – self-sufficient – self-focused – self-serving

New Nature:

God-satisfied – God-sufficient – God-focused – God-serving



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