



**The Letter to the Galatians - Freed To Be Free.**

**Galatians 5 - True Freedom**

A unique Gospel Chapter 1-2	Made righteous by Faith Chapter 3-4	Freed to be Free Chapter 5-6
Biographical	Doctrinal	Practical
The Message of the Apostle	The Redemption of Christ	<b>The Walk By the Holy Spirit</b>
The Gospel is true!	The Gospel is superior!	<b>The Gospel is freedom!</b>
Grace Defended	Grace Expounded	<b>Grace Applied</b>
Key Verse: "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who lives, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal 2:20)	Key Verse: "And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal 4:6)	<b>Key Verse: "For freedom, Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (Gal 5:1)</b>

**Galatians 5:1-12**

- Vs 1-6: Addressing the Galatians who were seeking to follow the Judaizers.
- Vs 7-12 Addressing the false teachers and their activity.
- Vs 1 - "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery"
- Circumcision was a physical mark with theological significance – setting Israel apart as God’s covenantal people.

“This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.” (Genesis 17:10)

“But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”” (Acts 15:1)

- Vs 2-4 – To be circumcised is to be ‘severed from Christ...fallen away from grace.’”
- Vs 5-6 – For through the Spirit by faith we are **WAITING** for the hope of righteousness. What matters is faith **WORKING** through love.
- Vs 7 Paul likens the Christian life to a run. Who stopped you from running?
- Vs 8 – Such teaching (persuasion) is not from God.
- Vs 9 - A little leaven (false teaching) affects the whole lump (body).
- Vs 10 – Paul confident they will stay strong and judge the false teacher.
- Vs 11-12 - If Paul taught circumcision, why would his preaching of the cross be so opposed by Jewish people? Paul wishes these false teacher that they ‘castrate’ themselves.

**Galatians 5:13-15**

- Vs 13: We were saved *from* sin, but not *to* sin. Live in love.
- In Christ, we are actually to fulfil the true intent of the law – to love each other.

- Vs 15: But if our actions show we are against one another, then we better watch out!

### **Galatians 5:16-26**

- If we are not careful, we can fall back from freedom in legalism (vs 1) or license (vs 13).
- This part of the passage is full of the Holy Spirit – He is mentioned 7 times alone.
- Vs 19-21 – the works of the flesh are clearly described.
- Vs 21b – Paul warns us that those who do such things will lose the Kingdom of God. **πράσσω prássō** Lit. to "practise", i.e. perform repeatedly or habitually
- Vs 22-23 – One fruit of the Spirit in 9 flavours:
- "Love, joy and peace" have to do with right relationship to God.
- "...patience, kindness and goodness" have to do with right relationship with others.
- "...faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" have to do with our personal attitudes and behaviour.

### **ARE WE DESTINED TO LIVE LIVES OF CONSTANT PRONENESS TO SIN?**

- "Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (vs 16).
- How can we walk in consistent victory?

1) Negatively, we must daily crucify the flesh. (Luke 9:23 – see also Mark 8:34; Matthew 16:24 , cf Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:6) **SIN CANNOT BE IMPROVED – IT MUST BE KILLED!**

#### **How to crucify our sinful nature?**

- 1. Preach to yourself the true Gospel of Jesus everyday.
- 2. When you face the inevitable temptations of your own sinful nature, the deceitful promise of the world or the luring lies of the devil, run to God. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." (James 4:7-8).
- 3. If you do fall, do not despair. Confess your sins (1 John 1:9). Seek help of other Christians. Don't struggle with besetting sins on your own.

2) Positively, we need to be led and walk after the Spirit (vs 16, 18 and 25).

"Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action. Grace, you know, does not just have to do with forgiveness of sins alone."

Dallas Willard, *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship*.

- Contrast between two words used for walking in verses 16 and 25:
- Vs 16 is ordinary walking.
- Vs 25 – Greek στοιχέω *stoicheō* Lit. "to proceed in a row as the march of a soldier, go in order."

"This will be seen in our whole way of life - in the leisure occupations we pursue, the books we read and the friendships we make....In all these way, we occupy ourselves in spiritual things. It is not enough to yield passively to the Spirit's control; we must also walk actively in the Spirit's way."

John Stott, *The Message of Galatians*, (Leicester: InterVarsity, 1984), page 134.

**Application:**

A Prayer for our places of work

"My heavenly Father, as I enter this workplace I bring your presence with me. I seek and desire to speak and reflect Your peace, Your grace, Your mercy, and Your perfect order to all that I meet with today. I acknowledge and submit to your Lordship over all that will be spoken, thought, decided, and accomplished this day. Help me to be led by Your Spirit every minute of my life and work today. Be glorified today in me, in Jesus' name. Amen."

(Adapted from David W Gill, *Workplace Discipleship 101*(Hendrickson Publishers, 2020), page 21.)