

Galatians 5: New Life in the Gospel

2/7/2021 Lion's Forum

Galatians 5, English Standard Version

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

⁷ You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion is not from him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰ I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. ¹¹ But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. ¹² I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Structure of Galatians

- **Intro and Paul's apostolic authority (Chapters 1 & 2)**
 - **Acts 26:14-18** *"Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting... Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light ... so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."*
 - **Philippians 3:4-9** *"...If anyone thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless" ... but then he says, "Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ... I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things ... I consider them rubbish, (Paul says) that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith."*
- **Justification by grace through faith (Chapters 3 & 4)**
 - **Romans 3:22-24; 5:19** *"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe ... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus ... For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man will many be made righteous."*
- **Sanctification (fruit of Christian liberty) & conclusion (Chapters 5 & 6)**

Structure of Galatians Chapter 5

- **Liberty threatened by legalism (verses 1-12)**
 - **1 Corinthians 1:18** *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

- **Freedom defined (verses 13-15)**
 - **Romans 7:15-25** *“I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate... I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me... For I delight in the law of God, in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin which dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”*

- **Liberty in practice; desires of the flesh vs. fruit of the Spirit (vss. 16-26)**
 - **Galatians 2:20** *“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

 - **2 Corinthians 5:17** *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he or she is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come.”*

 - **Book of Common Prayer (1979), pg 870** *“Although Good Works, which are the fruits of Faith, and follow after Justification, cannot put away our sins... yet are they pleasing to God, and do spring out necessarily from a true Faith; insomuch that by them a lively Faith may be as evidently known as a tree discerned by the fruit.”*

