

Christian Freedom

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GALATIANS 5-6

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction:

If the grace provided by Christ means freedom, why are believers not free from sin? Are believers ever really free in this lifetime? What inhibits Christian freedom? Sin or the choices believers make to sin? How can believers ever really be free not to sin? Today most believers probably would not be tempted by Jewish legalism, i.e. circumcision (Galatians 5:3). But what things do keep

believers from enjoying the freedoms provided by Christ in grace?

In Galatians 5-6, Paul addresses the issue of believers' freedom. In Galatians 5:1, he writes: *"It was freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject to a yoke of slavery."* The law of circumcision and the grace of Christ simply do not mix. Paul admonishes believers to stand firm in grace and not to mix the teaching of Jewish legalism affect their freedoms in Christ.

Then in Galatians 5:13, Paul warns against using Christian freedoms in grace as an excuse to sin, particularly against other believers (5:14-15).

But in 5:16-26, Paul provides an antidote. In 5:16, he wrote: *"But I say, walk in the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."* Practically speaking, what does the Apostle mean by *"walk in the Spirit?"*

In 5:19-21, Paul lists 15 evidences of a "walk in the flesh." Then in 5:22-23, he lists 9 fruit (singular) of the Holy spirit. What do all these things mean in our modern world today? How can believers know when they are "walking in the Spirit?" Is this the result of an emotion-filled church worship service? Is Paul talking about a charismatic "tongues experience?"

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Galatians 5:1-4, 16-23; 6:1-2 (NASB)

^{5:1} It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

² Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

³ And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.

⁴ You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,

²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,

²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice 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.

^{6:1} Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.

² Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. In 5:1, what is the freedom Paul is talking about?
2. In 5:4, what is the meaning of “fallen from grace?”
3. In 5:16, what are some practical lessons that can be learned from the phrase “*walk in the Spirit?*”
4. What is the meaning of the phrase in 5:21b, “*those who practice these things will not inherit the kingdom of God?*”
5. How does the “law of Christ” in 6:2 differ from the use of the word *Law* in 5:18?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
