

## Galatians 5

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- 1 ¶ Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.**  
**2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.**  
**3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.**  
**4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.**  
**5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.**  
**6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.**  
**7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?**  
**8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you.**  
**9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.**  
**10 I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.**  
**11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.**  
**12 I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!**

- 1: What 2 things does Paul instruct the believers to do?  
1) Stand fast in the liberty by which Christ has made us free  
2) Do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage  
IMPL'S: 1) Being unbalanced and 2) entangled... is a potential pitfall  
NOTE: "Works" introduces a host of complexities (like a web), to become entangled in
- 2: Why would Christ profit nothing if a believer sought to become circumcised?  
It would demonstrate a pursuit of being justified by works instead of by faith in Jesus
- 3: What is required of those who become circumcised?  
To keep the whole law, thereby becoming a debtor to the whole law
- 4: What does it mean to become "estranged", and how does this relate to Christ and falling from grace?  
Alienated, separated, at odds; pursuing works to be justified is contrary to Christ  
NOTE: To "fall from grace" implies grace is the highest and all else is a fall down!  
EX: A husband who chases women to prove he can still catch 'em... becomes estranged from his wife  
LIKEWISE: The believer who pursues works to "prove righteousness" becomes estranged fr God
- 5: Describe how the believer awaits the hope of righteousness?  
1) Through the Spirit – someone not born again will not have genuine hope, because of the HS's absence  
2) By faith – faith is not seen, but is imparted through the integrity and word of God
- 6: In Christ, what is worthless and what is profitable?  
Worthless: Circumcision or uncircumcision  
Profitable: Faith working through love
- 7: What did the believers do previously, and now presently?  
Previously: Ran well  
Presently: Hindered from obeying the truth; IMPL'G: no longer running well, but tripped up
- 8: By whom were the believers being persuaded?  
Not by God, "Him who calls you"; instead, likely by a judaisers
- 9: What's the problem with a little bit of leaven, and what does leaven symbolize?  
It works its way through the whole (lump); which, being sin, is not good, no matter how small
- 10: In what does Paul place his confidence in this matter?  
"In you, in the Lord... have no other mind" – IOW: The Lord can correct/straighten the mind those in Him  
What is the fate of the one who brings this trouble?  
He "shall bear his judgment" – he'll suffer the consequence of his folly, presently and eternally
- 11: What are the consequences of preaching circumcision and preaching the cross?  
Circumcision: Persecution ceases, but eternal judgment awaits  
The Cross: Persecution presently, but eternal life awaits
- 12: Regarding those of the circumcision who trouble the believers, what does Paul wish they would do?  
Cut themselves off – Literally: then circumcision or not become a moot point  
Spiritually: quit the charade of being 'saved by grace' and just be cut off from the church

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- 13 ¶ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.**  
**14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."**  
**15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!**  
**16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**  
**17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.**  
**18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**  
**19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,**  
**20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,**  
**21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**  
**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**  
**23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**  
**24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**  
**25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**  
**26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**

13: To what have believers been called by God?

To liberty – IOW: to be free from any and all bondage of the law

What are two ways that liberty can be exercised?

1) An opportunity for the flesh – IOW: for self

2) Through love to serve one another – IOW: for others

EX: Free to indulge (food, drink, habits, etc) but at the expense of others (hungry, stumbling, offensive)

14: How is the law fulfilled in one word?

LOVE - "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"

15: What can happen if believers "bite and devour one another"?

Can be consumed by one another – IOW: Identity becomes lost in the stronger/'strong man' (cult/possess)

16: What is Paul's prescription for not fulfilling the lust of the flesh?

"Walk in the Spirit" – IOW: under the constant inspiration of the Spirit, as Jesus did

1Jo 2:6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

17: What is the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit, and what are the consequences?

Conflict: The flesh (my will) and the Spirit (God's will) are contrary/in opposition to one another

Consequence: "You do not do the things you wish"

18: What is the benefit of being led by the Spirit?

"You are not under the law" – IMPL'G: Now above the law (not in lawlessness, but abounding-over the law)

19-21: What is evident about the works of the flesh?

"Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" – IOW: In opposition to all things God

22-23: What is evident about the fruit of the Spirit?

"Against such there is no law" – IOW: In agreement to all things God

24: What is evident regarding those who are Christ's?

They "have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" – IOW: "the flesh" (self) is crucified & denied

NOTE: The corresponding traits of the "the flesh" are "passions and desires"

25: What does it mean to "live in the Spirit" and to "walk in the Spirit"?

"Live" = born-again, a new creation

2Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

"Walk" = v16; again, under the constant inspiration of the Spirit

IMPL'S: Walking in the Spirit is different from being Born-Again, and that the two don't always coincide

26: What can occur in a Born-Again Christian who does not walk according to the Spirit?

Conceited – IOW: Walking according to works/law, results in arrogance

Provoking – IOW: A conceited person provokes others... who are "lower"

Jas 4:6 "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Envyng – IOW: A conceited person envies others... who are "higher"/"greater"

### Overview

From this chapter: Which verse leaves the greatest impression, and why?