

Christ Set Us Free:

A Study through the Book of Galatians

True Freedom: Living According to the Spirit, Galatians 5:13-17

Galatians 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.

Galatians 5:2-3 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.

Galatians 5:4-5 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh...

Galatians 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 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.

Bondage: Obligation to Obey the Mosaic Law

Bondage: Enslavement of Unrepentant Sin

Bondage: Living According to our Sinful Nature

Freedom: Righteous Standing Found in Christ

Freedom: Faith Working through Love

Freedom: Living by the Spirit of God

Wheelchair swimmer at the motor inn illustration from Chuck Swindoll: life in the Spirit versus life in the flesh

Jeremiah 12:2-3 You have planted them, they have also taken root; They grow, they have even produced fruit. You are near to their lips but far from their mind. But You know me, O Lord; You see me; And You examine my heart's attitude toward You...

Galatians 5:13-15 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh (sinful nature/human nature), but through love serve one another.

Flesh: Sinful Nature, Human Nature

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh (human) and dwelt among us...

Matthew 26:40-41 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh (sinful nature/human nature) is weak."

Ephesians 2:1-2 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh (sinful nature/human nature) and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Colossians 2:18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind (sinful mind/human mind)

Philippians 3:2-4 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh (sinful nature/human nature), although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh (sinful nature/human nature).

Philippians 3:4-If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh (sinful nature/human nature), I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

Philippians 3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

Bondage of the sinful nature

Galatians 5:13-15 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh (sinful nature/human nature), but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Galatians 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh (sinful nature/human nature). For the flesh (sinful nature/human nature) sets its desire against

the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh (sinful nature/human nature); for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

What God requires of us is not in proportion to the strength we possess. Rather, God's requirements are proportional to the resources available to us in Christ. We do not have the ability in ourselves to accomplish the least of God's tasks. This is the law of grace. When we recognize it is impossible for us to perform what God requires in our own strength, we will discover the secret of its accomplishment. John Owen

Romans 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh (sinful nature/human nature) set their minds on the things of the flesh (sinful nature/human nature), but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:6-8 For the mind set on the flesh (sinful nature/human nature) is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh (sinful nature/human nature) is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh (sinful nature/human nature) cannot please God.

Galatians 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh (sinful nature/human nature). For the flesh (sinful nature/human nature) sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh (sinful nature/human nature); for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.