

GALATIANS

Power of Unity: Abiding in the Church

“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”

– Galatians 5:6



What about the BIBLE?

- The purpose of revelation is nothing less than the **transformation of human** lives.
- Your contact with the Bible **should be changing you**. If it isn't, then something is drastically wrong with the way you are going about it
- This is a living book with a **living message** which, when it touches human life, begins to transform it and make it over.
- Now, it **takes the entire book** to do the whole job, -- in order that we might see what it has to say and how it says it.

Journey Through Galatians

Overview March 26

Week 1: Galatians 1 - The Good News (April 16)

Week 2: Galatians 2 – Justification (April 23)

Week 3: Galatians 3 – Freedom (April 30)

Week 4: Galatians 4 – Adoption (May 14)

Week 5: Galatians 5 – Transformation (May 21)

Week 6: Galatians 6 – New Creation (May 28)

A silhouette of a person with their arms outstretched, holding chains, against a sunset background. The person is standing in a field, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow. The chains are hanging from their wrists. The overall mood is one of liberation and freedom.

FREEDOM

Define Freedom

One week ago...

Objective

- The focus of next week's study is to read about **God's adoption of us through the justification and freedom** found in relationship with Christ.
- We will look at a few different aspects of adoption and talk about what those mean for the community of God's people.

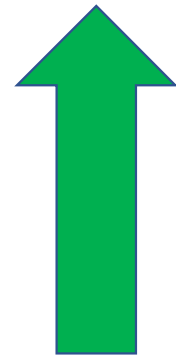
This Week...

This week will focus on specific aspects of walking in step with the Holy Spirit, focusing on the kind of fruit we can expect when we allow Him to fill us, lead us, and impact our thoughts and actions.

Key Themes

- Freedom
- Confidence
- Inheritance
- Justification
- Faith

This week...



Galatians 5: 19-26 Life by the Spirit

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”[b] 15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever[c] you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Galatians 5: 13-15

How to live in the Liberty of Jesus

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be **free**. But do not use your **freedom** to indulge the flesh; **rather**, serve one another humbly in love. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Key themes:

- Liberty
- Opportunity

Galatians 5: 16-18

Using liberty to walk in holy living

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Galatians 5: 16-18

Using liberty to walk in holy living

16 So I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Key themes:

1. To walk in the Spirit first means that the Holy Spirit lives in you.
2. It means to be open and sensitive to the influence of the Holy Spirit.
3. It means to pattern your life after the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5: 16-18

Using liberty to walk in holy living

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 **For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit**, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Key themes:

1. Doesn't always come easily
2. The flesh is the inner man that exists apart from the "old man" or the "new man" (Romans 6:6)
3. V. 19 - The antidote to the flesh is not found in the law, but in the Spirit.

KP: Inner vs Outer Influence

Galatians 5: 19-21a

Example of Flesh not Spirit

19 The acts of the flesh are **obvious**: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;
20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition,
dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you,
as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Key themes:

1. Though it is an interior, invisible battle, the results are outwardly evident
2. Four categories: sensual sins, religious sins, interpersonal sins, and social sins.

Galatians 5: 19-21a

Example of Flesh not Spirit

19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;
20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition,
dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you,
as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Key themes:

1. This shows that Paul often instructed Christians in how they should live, and this wasn't just an occasional emphasis.
2. The strength and certainty of Paul in this verse is striking.
3. When we come to Jesus to have our sins forgiven and our soul saved, He also changes our life. It doesn't happen all at once, and the work will never be perfected on this side of eternity, but there will be a real change none the less (1 John 3:5-9)

Galatians 5: 22-23

Examples of the fruit of the Spirit that walking in the Spirit produces in our lives.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Key themes:

1. Significantly, it is the fruit of the Spirit set across from the works of the flesh. Works are works, and fruit is fruit. Fruit has several important characteristics.
 1. Fruit isn't achieved by working, but is birthed by abiding.
 2. Fruit is fragile.
 3. Fruit reproduces itself.
 4. Fruit is attractive.
 5. Fruit nourishes.

Galatians 5: 22-23

Examples of the fruit of the Spirit that walking in the Spirit produces in our lives.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Key themes:

2. Paul used the plural in describing life after the flesh (works of the flesh), but he uses the singular (fruit, not fruits, of the Spirit).
3. Fruit of the Spirit is Love.
 - Each one of the works of the flesh is a violation or a perversion of this great love.
4. Fruit of the Spirit is Joy
 - One of the greatest marketing strategies ever employed was to position the kingdom of Satan as the place where the fun is and the kingdom of God as the place of gloom and misery.

Galatians 5: 22-23

Keeping in step with the Spirit.

24 Those who **belong to Christ Jesus** have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become **conceited**, provoking and envying each other.

Key themes:

1. God has a place for our flesh, with all its passions and desires. He wants us to nail it to His cross, so that it may be under control and under the sentence of death.
2. In Jesus Christ, you can live above the passions and desires of your flesh. The resources are there in Jesus.
3. Do not become conceited, No provoking, No envying.

Small Group Questions

Team Iconium

- Define Freedom in Christ Jesus

Team Derby

- Why did Paul discuss the four categories: sensual sins, religious sins, interpersonal sins, and social sins in Galatians 5?

• Team Lystra

- How does Galatians Chapter 5: 19-26 challenge believers to evaluate their own lives and make necessary changes? In what ways can the principles discussed in this passage bring transformation and growth in the Christian journey?

• Team Antioch

- Consider the practical implications of the fruits of the Spirit in daily life. How can these fruits be demonstrated in our interactions with others and in our personal character?

Small Group Questions

Team Iconium

- Define Freedom in Christ Jesus

Team Derby

- Why did Paul discuss the four categories: sensual sins, religious sins, interpersonal sins, and social sins in Galatians 5?

• Team Lystra

- How does Galatians Chapter 5: 19-26 challenge believers to evaluate their own lives and make necessary changes? In what ways can the principles discussed in this passage bring transformation and growth in the Christian journey?

• Team Antioch

- Consider the practical implications of the fruits of the Spirit in daily life. How can these fruits be demonstrated in our interactions with others and in our personal character?

Define Freedom in Christ Jesus?

"Freedom in Christ Jesus" is a concept rooted in Christian theology and refers to the spiritual liberation and transformation that believers experience through their relationship with Jesus Christ. It emphasizes the understanding that Christ's sacrifice and redemption provide believers with deliverance from sin, guilt, and condemnation, allowing them to live a life of freedom and purpose.

In the teachings of Christianity, freedom in Christ Jesus involves several key aspects:

- **Forgiveness and Redemption:** Through his death and resurrection, Jesus offers forgiveness for sins and redemption from the consequences of sin.
- **Relationship with God:** Freedom in Christ Jesus involves being reconciled with God and having a personal relationship with Him.
- **Transformation:** The freedom in Christ Jesus includes the transformative power of the Holy Spirit working in believers' lives.
- **Victory over Sin:** Freedom in Christ Jesus grants believers victory over the power of sin. While Christians still face temptations and struggles, they have the ability to resist sin and walk in righteousness through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- **Purpose and Identity:** Freedom in Christ Jesus provides believers with a new identity and purpose.

It's important to note that freedom in Christ Jesus is not a license to engage in sinful behavior or pursue selfish desires. Rather, it is a call to live in alignment with God's principles and to love and serve others as Christ did.

Scripture References:

- 1.Ephesians 1:7: "In him [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace."
- 2.Colossians 1:14: "In whom [Jesus] we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."
- 3.Acts 13:38: "Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man [Jesus] forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you."
- 4.1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- 5.Matthew 26:28: "For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."
- 6.Luke 24:47: "and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his [Jesus] name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."
- 7.Psalm 103:12: "as far as the east is from the west, so far does he [God] remove our transgressions from us."
- 8.Isaiah 43:25: "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins."

Small Group Questions

Team Iconium

- Define Freedom in Christ Jesus

Team Derby

- Why did Paul discuss the four categories: sensual sins, religious sins, interpersonal sins, and social sins in Galatians 5?

• Team Lystra

- How does Galatians Chapter 5: 19-26 challenge believers to evaluate their own lives and make necessary changes? In what ways can the principles discussed in this passage bring transformation and growth in the Christian journey?

• Team Antioch

- Consider the practical implications of the fruits of the Spirit in daily life. How can these fruits be demonstrated in our interactions with others and in our personal character?

Why did Paul discuss the four categories: sensual sins, religious sins, interpersonal sins, and social sins in Galatians 5?

- Paul discusses the four categories of sins in Galatians 5 to address the issue of false teachings and the temptation to rely on **legalistic observances** for salvation.
- In the letter to the Galatians, Paul **confronts the challenge** of certain Judaizers who were promoting a distorted version of the gospel. These individuals were emphasizing the importance of following Jewish laws and rituals, particularly circumcision, as a requirement for salvation.
- In response to this false teaching, Paul presents a strong argument for the **sufficiency of faith in Christ** and the freedom believers have in Him.
- By listing the categories of sins in Galatians 5:19-21, Paul highlights the **contrast between a life lived in the flesh**, which is characterized by sin, and a life lived in the Spirit, which produces the fruits of the Spirit. The purpose of listing these sins is to show the Galatians the **consequences and destructive nature** of living according to the flesh and indulging in sinful behaviors.
- Paul addresses these specific categories of sins to provide practical examples that would **resonate with the audience** and demonstrate the all-encompassing nature of sin.
- Ultimately, **Paul's aim is to steer the Galatians back to the truth of the gospel** and remind them of the **freedom** they have in Christ.

Small Group Questions

Team Iconium

- Define Freedom in Christ Jesus

Team Derby

- Why did Paul discuss the four categories: sensual sins, religious sins, interpersonal sins, and social sins in Galatians 5?

• Team Lystra

- How does Galatians Chapter 5: 19-26 challenge believers to evaluate their own lives and make necessary changes? In what ways can the principles discussed in this passage bring transformation and growth in the Christian journey?

• Team Antioch

- Consider the practical implications of the fruits of the Spirit in daily life. How can these fruits be demonstrated in our interactions with others and in our personal character?

How does Galatians Chapter 5: 19-26 challenge believers to evaluate their own lives and make necessary changes? In what ways can the principles discussed in this passage bring transformation and growth in the Christian journey?

These fruits are not simply individual virtues, but they also shape our interactions with others and our overall character. They influence how we treat others, respond to challenging situations, and navigate relationships. As we allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, these fruits will increasingly become evident in our daily lives, leading to healthier relationships, a positive impact on others, and a Christ-like character that reflects God's love and grace.

1. **Love:** Practically, it can be demonstrated through acts of kindness, forgiveness, and compassion. It means prioritizing others' well-being and seeking their good.
2. **Joy:** It can be manifested in daily life through gratitude, celebrating the blessings in our lives, and maintaining a positive attitude even in challenging circumstances.
3. **Peace:** It can be demonstrated by pursuing reconciliation, promoting understanding, and seeking to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner. It involves being a peacemaker and cultivating a peaceful atmosphere around us.
4. **Patience:** Practically, it means being slow to anger, showing forbearance towards others' faults and shortcomings, and exercising patience in relationships and circumstances.
5. **Kindness:** It can be demonstrated through acts of service, being considerate and helpful, and speaking words of encouragement and affirmation.
6. **Goodness:** It can be demonstrated by living according to ethical and moral principles, acting in honesty and righteousness, and displaying integrity in all areas of life.
7. **Faithfulness:** Practically, it means keeping our promises, being dependable in relationships, and being faithful to God's commands and teachings.
8. **Gentleness:** It can be demonstrated through patience, understanding, and treating others with kindness and respect. It involves responding to others with grace and humility.
9. **Self-control:** It can be demonstrated by managing impulses, avoiding destructive behaviors, and exercising moderation and discipline in various areas of life.

Scripture References:

1. Love: "And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." - 1 John 4:16
2. Joy: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." - Romans 15:13
3. Peace: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." - John 14:27
4. Patience: "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." - Ephesians 4:2
5. Kindness: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." - Colossians 3:12
6. Goodness: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." - Ephesians 2:10
7. Faithfulness: "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." - Hebrews 10:23
8. Gentleness: "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near." - Philippians 4:5
9. Self-control: "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." - 2 Timothy 1:7

Small Group Questions

Team Iconium

- Define Freedom in Christ Jesus

Team Derby

- Why did Paul discuss the four categories: sensual sins, religious sins, interpersonal sins, and social sins in Galatians 5?

• Team Lystra

- How does Galatians Chapter 5: 19-26 challenge believers to evaluate their own lives and make necessary changes? In what ways can the principles discussed in this passage bring transformation and growth in the Christian journey?

• Team Antioch

- Consider the practical implications of the fruits of the Spirit in daily life. How can these fruits be demonstrated in our interactions with others and in our personal character?

Consider the practical implications of the fruits of the Spirit in daily life. How can these fruits be demonstrated in our interactions with others and in our personal character?

This phrase refers to the process of putting to death or denying the sinful nature and its inclinations in the life of a believer. It involves actively choosing to reject and overcome the temptations and desires that are contrary to God's will.

Practically applying the concept of crucifying the flesh with its passions and desires in daily life involves a few key aspects:

- 1. Self-awareness and Examination:** Believers need to develop self-awareness and examine their thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.
- 2. Surrender and Dependence on the Holy Spirit:** Crucifying the flesh requires surrendering to the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.
- 3. Renewing the Mind:** Transforming the mind through the Word of God is crucial in the process of crucifying the flesh.
- 4. Accountability and Community:** Being part of a supportive community of fellow believers can provide accountability and encouragement in the process of crucifying the flesh.
- 5. Intentional Choices and Actions:** Crucifying the flesh requires making intentional choices and taking actions aligned with God's will.
- 6. Repentance and Forgiveness:** When believers stumble and give in to the desires of the flesh, they should practice repentance by acknowledging their sins, seeking forgiveness from God, and making amends where necessary.

It's important to note that crucifying the flesh is a lifelong process and not something that can be achieved in one's own strength. It requires a daily commitment to follow Christ, relying on His grace, and continually seeking transformation through the work of the Holy Spirit.

In Summary

- This whole chapter lends itself to a searching examination of ourselves.
- We often think that our problems and difficulties are all outside of ourselves. We think that we would be fine if everyone just treated us right and if circumstances just got better. But that ignores the tenor of this chapter: the problems are in us, and need to be dealt with by the Spirit of God.
- With that kind of reality check, we can see a new world, and a new life — and not one other person or one other circumstance has to change.
- All we must do is yield to the Spirit of God, and begin to truly walk in the Spirit.

Journey Through Galatians

Overview March 26

Week 1: Galatians 1 - The Good News (April 16)

Week 2: Galatians 2 – Justification (April 23)

Week 3: Galatians 3 – Freedom (April 30)

Week 4: Galatians 4 – Adoption (May 14)

Week 5: Galatians 5 – Transformation (May 21)

Week 6: Galatians 6 – New Creation (May 28)