

Galatians

Part 5: Living by the Spirit

Flesh vs. Spirit

(Galatians 5:1-9) It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

(Galatians 5:13-21) 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. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 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. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 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.

(Romans 7:19 NLT) I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.

Flesh: Bondage – Spirit: Freedom

Oftentimes the bondage causes us to rebel even more.

Flesh: Doubt – Spirit: Faith

Trusting that God's plan for us is best

Flesh: Religion – Spirit: Relationship

Religion says how I act is more important than who I know.

Flesh: Legalism – Spirit: Grace

Living in unconditional grace from the Father – receiving and extending to others

Living by the Spirit

(Galatians 5:22-26) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

To live by the Spirit...

1. It requires me to see.

(Psalm 119:105) Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

2. It requires me to listen.

(Isaiah 30:21) Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."

3. It requires me to follow.

(James 1:22) Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.