Galatians 5

Jesus Set us Free

- Legal Relationship
 Love Relationship
 Based on Jesus work
 Freedom
 Life
 - 1. **Freedom to...** Please God by Faith
 - 2. **Freedom to...** Cease striving to earn God's favor. Rest.

Ephesians 2:8 For **by grace** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it **is the gift of God**, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

• Galatians ate this message up...

Galatians 1:2b [Paul began] ... To the churches of Galatia: 3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ...

- God's Grace leads to God's Peace
 - 1. End of legal relationship w/God
 - 2. Begin a love relationship w/God/others

Freedom to walk in peace w/God in the cool of the day as Adam/Eve

We are not slaves...we are sons

Galatians 4:6 ... And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son...

- Faith in the **finished work** of Jesus sets us free...
 - 1. Free from cruel bondage of trying to be good/trying harder
 - 2. Free from condemnation of the Law

Romans 8:2 ...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Religion calls us back into bondage...forget about it!

I. Christian Liberty Practical Application

Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

It is for freedom that Christ set us free! NASB

Stand fast in the Freedom Jesus bought with His blood Don't be entangled again with the yoke of religious bondage

Galatians 4:9b... how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years. 11 **I am afraid for you**, lest I have labored for you in vain.

• Stand fast: Stand firm, Persevere, Persist...in what?

We are to actively strive to enter His rest

Hebrews 4:9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. 11 Let us therefore be **diligent to enter that rest**

God rested on 7th Day/Jesus fulfilled the Sabbath by finishing God's work Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest. Strive to cease from striving

Matthew 11:28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

• Spirit of Religion: Seeks to entangle/enslave those Jesus wants to set free

Jesus Christ has given them an "Emancipation Proclamation," but their "old master" tells them they are still slaves to a legal relationship with God. They live in bondage because their "old master" has deceived them. [Guzik]

- Do, do, do and do
 - 1. Sabbath keeping
 - 2. Door to door/Keeping logs
 - 3. Ceremonies/Rituals

Acts 15:1 Unless you are circumcised...you cannot be saved.

2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.

Believing any work can add to what Jesus did in paying for our sins by His blood takes away any benefit we might have from the cross. IOW's... Adding anything to the Cross nullifies the Cross [NJC]

Tongue cannot express, nor heart conceive what a terrible thing it is to make Christ worthless." [Luther]

Eternal Math Equations:

- 1. Jesus plus **nothing** equals Salvation
- 2. Jesus plus **anything** equals Damnation

When Jesus is **everything** why reduce Him to **nothing** by thinking we are **something**? [NJC]

3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.

Want to be saved by the Law? You're a good person?

• Circumcision is only one law. What about the other 612?

• Obligated to keep the whole law from birth to death

Deuteronomy 27:26 Cursed is the one who does not **confirm all the words of this law** by observing them.' "And all the people shall say, **'Amen!**' [?]

James 2:10 ... whoever shall keep the whole law yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

Trying harder drives us *from Jesus*

• Lit. ...you have *fallen out of grace*

Falling from grace has little to do with immoral conduct but rather apparent moral conduct motivated by pride. This does not mean losing Salvation but very well could mean [if sustained] evidence of never having been saved, having a form of godliness yet denying its power; i.e., the power to save. [NJC]

• **Falling from Grace?** Life exemplified by Self-Righteousness

5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

- Self-righteousness leads to pride/competition
- Imparted Righteousness by faith leads to Humility/Love

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

God says the result of True Doctrine is...Love

1 Timothy 1:5 Now the purpose of the commandment is **love from a pure heart**, from a good conscience, and from sincere [unhypocritical] faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.

The outcome of Legalism is Pride, Competition, Envy and ultimately Cannibalism God says the outcome of True Teaching is...Love

Colossians 1:4 ... we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints...

James 2: 20 ... faith without works is dead?

We are saved by faith not works...yet true saving faith is expressed in works; actions of love toward fellow saints expressed in real and practical ways. [NJC]

SUMMARY Christian Liberty

II. Love Fulfills the Law

7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you.

The word [hindered] signifies 'to break up a road'... so as to render it impassable, and is therefore the opposite of... 'to clear a way.'" The Galatians were doing well until **someone broke up the road they ran on**. [Lightfoot]

False-Teaching needs to be stopped before spreads

Titus 1:10 For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, 11 whose **mouths must be stopped**, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.

Churches today have been breached

- 1. Name it/Claim it Health/Wealth false Gospel
- 2. The Shack/The Secret Oprah Theology
- 3. Destiny [Tarot] Cards
- 4. Emergent Church
- 5. Contemplative Prayer
- 6. Enneagram: Self-actualization/Psychology/Numerology

Why does CCY have to approve every book, poster, video, teaching etc.? We have an enemy. Persuasion to go sideways is not of God it is of the devil

9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

• Satanic Persuasion...

- 1. Why not Pokémon in Sunday School?
- 2. Why not Rabbits/Santa's in the church of Jesus?
- 3. **A.** Once it starts it is hard to stop

Simply teaching the Word Simply. Fellowship. Worship. Prayer. If that is not enough this is not the place for you

- Mark of a False Teacher: Jesus is not enough.
- Compromise leads to more trouble than we can imagine

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.

• You ran well. I have confidence in you. You will listen and do...

James 1:21b ... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.

- Preaching of Religion is welcomed by the sinful nature
- Preaching of the Cross disdained by human pride

Who are you to tell me I'm bad...that I can't make myself good no matter how hard I try?

Romans 9:33 ... [Jesus is] a stumbling stone and rock of offense...

1 Corinthians 1:23 ... we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness... [yet these Greeks received the message]

Not here to tickle ears but to tell truth even when it hurts

Do you Love the Truth? Truth is everything.

Love of Truth: I don't necessarily *need* encouragement... I need truth. Encouragement is a byproduct of Truth whereas discouragement is a byproduct of self-deceit. [NJC]

12 I could wish that **those who trouble you** would even cut themselves off!

Q. How serious is Paul?

If they believe circumcision saves souls...why don't they go all the way and emasculate themselves to gain a better place in heaven? Is this ridiculous enough for you yet? [NJC]

> Praise God! Freed from the nonsense of man-made devil driven religiosity Now free to focus on loving one another...

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**.

Now that I don't have to perform rituals/ceremonies, hide on the Sabbath, get circumcised What do I do with all this free time on my hands?

A. Lovingly Serve One Another by the Power of the Spirit

- **Q.** What is the chief end of man? **A.** To glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. Q. How do we glorify God?
- **Q.** What is His command?
- **A.** By keeping His command.
 - **A.** Love one another

Our Purpose/God's Glory are both found in loving others as ourselves...

14 For all the law is fulfilled in **one word**, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 7:12 ... whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Practical ways to love others as love yourself?

Give a gift What would you like? Give your time How much do you need?

- Give encouragement
 What do you need to hear?
- Give unexpectedly
- Give w/out expectation
- Give as God gives...for God so loved the world that He gave

Supernatural giving. Apart from Me you can do nothing.

Forgive/Love Unconditionally/Relinquish your rights/Surrender your bitterness

How does that make you feel?

- The Galatians were at a Crossroad. Choice must be made here/now...
 - 1. Through love begin to serve one another in the Power of the Spirit or...
 - 2. Continue to walk in the flesh/Turn the church into Night of Walking Dead

15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Galatians began by *eating up* the message of Salvation by Grace **Now they are** *eating each other alive...*

- Beware when legalism creeps in.
- **Red Flag:** Church is about to kill itself in the most grotesque way. Spiritual Pride

Satan incites Legalism. Legalism leads to pride. Pride leads to competition. Competition leads to envy. Envy leads to eating each other alive; i.e., spiritual cannibalism. [NJC]

- **Q.** What does biting/devouring look like? **A.** Bloody mess
 - 1. Gossip/Slander/Malice
 - 2. Envy/Jealousy/Competition
 - 3. Judgmentalism/Favoritism
- How can we prevent this all-too-common bloody mess?
- 1. Teaching Truth
- 2. Church Discipline Elders
- 3. Humility of Christ All
- True doctrine results in Love Shutting the mouths of false teachers Knowing who we are/**who we're not**
- ty of Christ All Kno

III. Walking in the Spirit Cooperation with God

Pastor

Galatians 5:16 I say then walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Since you're about to bite/devour one another Instead...Walk in the Spirit

Many attempt to communicate things of the Spirit; i.e., being filled, baptized in, empowered by, walking with...trying to convey in an abstract/intellectual manner, things they have **never actually experienced themselves**, thus the listener is left more confused than ever. [NJC]

Get the CD. Listen: 90% of Christians are not walking in the Spirit?

• Walk: Daily Life and choice we make...

- 1. Walk in the flesh: Led by ourselves/feelings/own agenda
- 2. Walk in the Spirit: Led by God/Spirit resulting in love/pleasing God
- **6000+ yrs. ago:** First man/woman were created in the Image of God

Genesis 1:27 ...God created man in **His own image**; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Everyone born after the fall: Born into the likeness/image of Adam...

Genesis 5:3 ... Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image...

- Everyone born after Adam: Born Spiritually dead...separated from God
- Only to be made alive by Spirit if Christ...

1 Corinthians 15:22 ... in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

Ephesians 2:1 ...[God] made alive, [you] **who were dead** in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others...**4 But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**

Believers are made alive by the Spirit at Conversion. Darkness to Light. Death to Life. **Q.** Now what? **A.** Now **Walk in the Spirit of God**

• I don't know what that means?

- 1. It means the Spirit of God is vital/active/moving.
- 2. It means to get in line with what He is doing. Cooperate with God
- 3. It means making the choice each morning/relinquish *your will for His*

Choosing each day to be led by God's Spirit

Believers have Two Natures/Two Choices

1. Nature of Adam	Flesh	Old Man	Bent toward sin
2. Nature of Christ	Spirit	New Man	Desiring to pleasing God

This is our true/authentic self after conversion. **Spirit w/in desiring to please God**

• Choose to walk in [be] who we truly are/meant to be/now want to be...

Colossians 3:8 [So] ... put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 **Do not lie** to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have *put on the new man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him...

Put off the old nature...Put on the New!

- Do not lie: Be your true-self to one another. Don't be hypocritical to who you are
- **Put on** [action of mind/will] **the new man/**Renewed in the image of God

Romans 6:12 ... do not let sin reign [choice] in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

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.

The real-you now hates sin because the Spirit of Christ dwells in you **Counterintuitive Fact:** Battle w/in only rages as we seek to keep the law in own strength!

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would **not have known sin except through the law**. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." 8 But **sin, taking opportunity by the commandment**, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead.

- Trying to keep the law always leads to one of two results depending on the day
- 1. **Defeated** Condemned by very law we seek to obey or
- 2. **Prideful** Deceived by our own Self-Righteousness

Either way renders us **powerless to please God**. Devil is happy with either result

So, what now? How do I please God? Walk in the Spirit

I don't know how? Make choice each morning/relinquish your will to God's agenda

Let God lead the way...

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

The Law has nothing to do with those led by the Spirit

• **Q.** Do you have the Spirit of God. If not this is your life...

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

A confessed Christian *will not* continue in this lifestyle. Saying "That's just who I am" is actually an admission that you do not belong to Christ no matter what you say/think. [NJC]

...that those who practice such things **will not** inherit the kingdom of God.

These will not inherit the Kingdom of God not because they **do these nasty things**...but because **they are not saved**. There is only one unpardonable sin; denying Jesus, and their

lives [works/walk/actions/choices] reveal they are committing it. [NJC]

22 But the **fruit of the Spirit is love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness [meekness], self-control...

• One definition of Walking in the Spirit is simply not walking in the flesh yet...

It is ludicrous to teach vv 19-23 as simply one list to follow/one not to follow

That is not the point the Holy Spirit is making!

• Q. What is the point then?

A. If we belong to Jesus, we have His Spirit/Naturally bear the fruit of the Spirit as we abide

John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 15 Bearing Fruit

- 1. **Q.** How do I bear the good fruit of the Holy Spirit?
- 2. **Q.** What does it mean to abide in Jesus?
- 3. **Q.** What does it mean to abide in His love.
- 4. **Q.** What are His commands?

- A. Abide in Jesus vv 4
- **A.** Abide in His love. v9
- **A.** Keep His commands v10
- A. Love as He loved us...

John 15:12 [Context] This is My commandment, that you love one another **as I have loved you**. 13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

Self-sacrificing love is the fruit of the Spirit produced by abiding in Christ and exemplified in Joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness self-control to others

- So, what...
 - 1. If we are saved, we have the indwelling Spirit of God
 - 2. If we have God's Spirit, we will love to the extent we abide
 - 3. As we love we glorify God!

John 15: 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit...

Everything refers back to the only thing God asks and the one thing most difficult to do and impossible to do without His Spirit...**Love others the way you want to be loved.** [NJC]

23b... Against such there is no law.

- The law has nothing to say to Spirit led believers as Love fulfills 100% the law
- The law is not for spirit-filled believers.

1 Timothy 1:9 [know this] ... the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers...

24 ... those who are Christ's have **crucified the flesh** with its passions and desires.

• We now hate the things that God hates: See our sin crucified/Reckon it dead daily

Romans 6:6 ... our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

- We have Crucified the Flesh [and continue to on a daily basis]
 - 1. Requires Decisive Action
 - 2. Causes Severe but Temporal pain...Old man screams as we stop gossiping
 - 3. Leads to Abundant Life here and now...

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

- I still sin but I hate it
- No longer the real me that wants to...but the old man

Romans 7:15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. 16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. 17 But now, **it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me**. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. 19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. 20 Now if I do what I will not to do, **it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me**.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

- **Walk:** Different word from v16 *peripateo* normal word for walk
- Walk: here v25 stoicheo: To walk in line/keep in step with

Since we live in the Spirit: Since we have already received the Spirit...

... Let us walk in the Spirit

• First things first...

- 1. In order to walk in the Spirit, you must have the Spirit
- 2. All true born-again believers are indwelt with the Holy Spirit at conversion

Ephesians 1:13 In [Jesus] you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, **having believed**, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

Not reformed/rehabilitated but regenerated/renewed by the Spirit or God Heb. **Ruach; Breath, Wind, Life**

1. Must have the Spirit

2. Must be filled each day [continually] w/ Spirit in order to walk in the Spirit

- All believers are indwelt w/the Spirit of Christ
 - 1. **Comforter:** In a world that hurts He is the God of all comfort
 - 2. **Intercessor:** Omnipresent searching our hearts and healing
 - 3. Fruit Producer: Cultivating good works in our lives *as we cooperate with Him*
- Fruit def: Change. Good change in us/Good change in those around us
- We must actively choose to cooperate with Him
 - 1. Cooperating means dying to self. Our will. Our rights.
 - 2. Cooperating means not grieving Him by doing things contrary to His Word
 - 3. Cooperating means yielding control to Him.
 - 4. Cooperating means walking in step w/Him. Not behind or in front

Co-operating: Getting in-line and in-step with what the Holy Spirit is already doing

To walk in the Spirit first means that the Holy Spirit lives in you. Second, it means to be open and sensitive to the influence of the Holy Spirit. Third, it means to pattern your life after the influence of the Holy Spirit. [Guzik]

- Walking in Step with the Spirit means we...
 - 1. We walk in Love Agape/Decision of mind/heart not emotion
 - 2. We walk in Joy
- More than happiness
- 3. We walk in Peace Beyond understanding
- 4. We walk in Patience More than mere men
- 5. We walk in Kindness Foreign to the world
- 6. We walk in Goodness Reflecting God's grace
- 7. We walk in Faithfulness Integrity
- 8. We walk in Gentleness Gentle as doves yet wise as serpents
- 9. We walk in Self-Control Including discretion. When to do/What to do

My Sheep hear My voice

• This fruit of abiding in the Spirit is the abundant life Jesus promised...

Romans 6:4 ... just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in **newness of life**.

• Outward signs of inward change for the world to see. Fruit inspectors.

Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and **glorify your Father in heaven**.

Walking in the Spirit...

Not thinking about ourselves at all...letting the Spirit take us over to the point of only desiring to please Jesus exemplified in sacrificial love for one another. [NJC]

• Walking in the Spirit means bearing the fruit of the Spirit culminating in Love

If our daily lives are not occupied w/real and unique examples of loving others, **we are not walking in the Spirit.** Why? The Spirit seeks to glorify the Father through us and our love for others, thus if we are not loving others, we are not cooperating with the Spirit, **nor are we walking in step with Him.** [NJC]

Jesus our perfect example of listening/doing

John 5:19b ... Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

Walking in the Spirit? As the Spirit moves, we move. As the Spirit waits, we wait. As the Spirit speaks, we speak. As the Spirit does, we do...this is being led by the Spirit.

Circumspect: Always ready for anything that might come our way. **Acting** by the Spirit's leading **not reacting** to our hurt feeling

• Legalism leads to pride, competition, envy, eventual **Spiritual Cannibalism**

Galatians 5:15 [You are in danger of beginning to...] bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Instead...Walk in the Spirit. Cooperating with God

- Requirements for Walking in the Spirit [Doesn't just happen]
 - 1. Humbling ourselves...

Philippians 2:3 [Mind of Christ] Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

- 2. Denying self/selfish desires
- 3. Constant/Active giving over to God

IMPORTANT: Walking in the Spirit means a continuous awareness throughout the day that there are no coincidences w/regard to people/situations or circumstances... but only divine appointments [NJC]

Colossians 2:6 As you... have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him...

- Walking in the Spirit? Cooperating with God and His agenda
- 90% of Christians are not living like this?

Don't miss the blessing. The Holy Spirit is alive and active in our congregation

Watch for what He is doing and jump in