

MY BODY,
MY CHOICE?

US
AGAINST
THEM?

WHAT DOES GOD SAY?

— PART 2 —

IS VIOLENCE
EVER JUSTIFIED?



Know

Galatians

Author: The Apostle Paul wrote Galatians to churches in the Roman province of Galatia, in modern-day Turkey.

Audience: These churches included Gentile (non-Jewish) believers who had come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Historical Context: False teachers were influencing the Galatian churches, insisting that Gentile Christians needed to follow the Jewish Law and its religious requirements to be fully accepted by God.

Purpose of the Letter: Paul wrote to defend the gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ rather than through obedience to the Mosaic Law. He was concerned that the Galatians were turning away from the freedom they had received in Christ.

Immediate Context: Earlier in chapter 5, Paul urges believers to stand firm in their freedom and warns against returning to the burden of relying on the Law for justification. In verses 13–23, he shifts to explaining how Christians should live in that freedom through the Holy Spirit.

Important Distinction: Paul's argument is not that God's moral standards no longer matter. Rather, Christians are justified through faith in Christ, and their lives are transformed through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Read

Galations 5:13-23 (ESV)

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy,[d] drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do[e] such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Ask

1. Imagine you've moved away to college. No curfew, no restrictions, and nobody looking over your shoulder. What would you do differently? If nobody were stopping you, how would you decide which choices were right or wrong? Knowing that the environments we expose ourselves to can gradually change what we consider normal, desirable, or acceptable, how should that influence the situations we choose to enter and the boundaries we establish?
2. 1 Corinthians 6:12 says, "'I have the right to do anything,' you say—but not everything is beneficial. 'I have the right to do anything'—but I will not be mastered by anything." Have you ever done something that felt so good you came back for more? What separates something we enjoy from an addictive behavior that is starting to control us? If you or someone you know is addicted to something, how could you get help?
3. We often talk about honoring God with our bodies by avoiding drugs, alcohol, and sexual immorality, but what about our responsibility to care for our bodies through proper sleep, nutrition, and exercise? How do we balance that responsibility with the danger of becoming so consumed with our fitness, appearance, or body image that healthy self-care turns into vanity?
4. Imagine two teenagers in a dating relationship who genuinely care about each other mutually agree to take their physical relationship further. If both people consent and neither feels pressured, is that enough to make their decision morally right? How should your relationship with God influence the physical boundaries you set in your own relationships?
5. Galatians 5:13 tells us that we were called to be free, but warns us not to use that freedom to indulge the flesh. Yet our culture often treats personal freedom and happiness as life's highest goals. Imagine a friend tells you, "It's my body, my life, and I should be free to pursue whatever makes me happy." How would you explain why surrendering our desires to God could lead to something better than simply pursuing our own happiness? Can pursuing happiness actually rob us of joy?

[illegible]

Prayer Requests

Gospel Sharing Tool

1. Ask Permission

"Can I ask you a spiritual question?"

2. Ask Two Questions

- "What do you think happens after we die?"
- "If God asked, 'Why should I let you into heaven?' what would you say?"

3. Listen

Listen carefully and repeat back what you heard to make sure you understand.

4. Share the Gospel

Use this simple outline:

- God – God loves us and created us to know Him.
- Us – We have all sinned and are separated from God.
- Jesus – Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sins.
- Response – We must repent and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.

5. Invite

"Where are you at with Jesus?"

6. Follow Up

"Would you like to read the Bible or talk more about this sometime?"

7. Pray

"Can I pray for you or pray with you?"



Sundays
9 AM, *Netcong*
10 AM, *Randolph*
11:15 AM, *Netcong*

Wednesdays
7 PM, *Netcong*

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