

November 11 & 12, 2017



Being free from me!
Galatians 5

Don't go back to your old way of life!

In recovery ministry, this is called relapse.

Galatians 5:1 *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.*

1. If you are trusting Christ plus one rule, you are not trusting in Christ.

Galatians 5:2 *Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.*

Christ + Nothing = Everything

Christ + Something = Nothing

2. If you add one law, you are obligated to keep the whole law.

Galatians 5:3 *Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.*

3. If you accept keeping one law as necessary, you are leaving the Grace system for the Law system.

Galatians 5:4 *You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.*

Don't give in to your sinful nature!

1. What is the nature of the Human Race?

We are created in the image of God.

We are “fallen” and flawed images.

We are being redeemed and renewed.

2. What is the problem we face?

This is a “license to sin.”

Galatians 5:13 *You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; . . .*

3. What is the solution?

Galatians 5:14 *The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.*

The opposite of selfishness is service born of love.

Don't give up in your fight!

1. We are in a war between our sinful nature and God's Spirit in us.

Galatians 5:16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

2. Victory comes by being led by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

19 The acts of the sinful nature 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.

3. Being led by the Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, 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 sinful nature 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.