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GALATIANS

LESSON 5 – YOU’VE BEEN SET FREE FROM THIS Part 2

Acceptance changes the way we Love.

“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.” Galatians 5:13 (ESV)

- Don’t abuse your freedom. Your freedom is there so that you have the safety to live out this righteous life that God has called you to.

“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.” Galatians 5:14-15 (ESV)

- We can be self-centered when we have freedom. We can also take our liberty as something to be arrogant about. We are still called to resist the flesh.

Keep In Step with the Spirit

“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.” Galatians 5:16-17 (ESV)

- Flesh in the Greek is Sarx, meaning: “sinful nature.” The freedom of Christ doesn’t lead to self-indulgent or self-sabotaging behavior, but rather the empowerment of the Spirit to love and serve others.

The flesh, the enemy knows you have this freedom, and sometimes the enemy will whisper to you and the flesh will whisper to you and say you know what? God’s already paid the price and you can do whatever you want to do.

- Paul lets you know that you are called to liberty not slavery. You are not to use this liberty to sin, but to love and serve others. The whole law is fulfilled and summed up in one word: “Love”, even towards your neighbor. But if you bite and devour one another, you will be consumed by one another.

“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, drunkenness, orgies, and things like

these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV)

- Paul says to **walk** in the Spirit, and you won’t gratify the desires of the flesh. He is not saying here is the list of all the things you should not do. He’s giving us one action, one verb in this entire passage, walk. If you walk in the Spirit, you will not do these things.
- Anytime you get so **committed** to making the flesh feel good, you’re going to find yourself fulfilling one of these things.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

- This is what it looks like when we walk in the Spirit. When you are walking in the Spirit means: You are **listening** to the next thing the Holy Spirit tells you to do.

Paul says when we simply walk in the Spirit, this means forward progress step by step. This walking in the Spirit will deny the flesh and produce this fruit.