

GALATIANS SESSION 5

Review: Last time we went through Chapter 4 where Paul builds on the idea that the law did not give anyone sonship status but treated everyone as slaves and infants. Everyone that broke the law at any point fell under its curse. Jesus Christ died under the law to redeem us from the curse of the law and lift us above it through the adoption of sons. Under grace we are the sons of God and he illustrates this point through the examples of Abraham's marriages to Hagar and Sarah. The women represent the covenants (law and grace) and the sons represent what they produced – a slave and a son. Ishmael was a product of the flesh and Isaac was the child of promise. In Christ, we are as Isaac was...children of promise.

Galatians 5:1-2 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. *Jesus Christ both died and resurrected to give us freedom. Freedom from sin and the law both! We gained freedom from both of these by God ruling our bodies dead - Romans 6:6-9* Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. *To go back to rules and rituals now that we've been saved and set free is to be entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Gentiles being circumcised after being saved would take them away from Christ because they would trust in that than in Him. We live from acceptance, not for it. Our obedience is a “thank you” and a “want to” instead of a “have to”.*

Galatians 5:3-4 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. *Paul wants them to know that they can't pick and choose what portions of the law they want to observe. If they are circumcised now, it obliges them to observe all of the law. To attempt that would cut them off from the experiencing the power of the substitutionary life of Christ – they would fall from grace! That phrase does not mean to lose your salvation...it means to cease from operating in a grace standard and adopt a works-based mentality rather than a relationship-driven one. Doing so leads to a life of slavery and spiritual defeat.*

Galatians 5:5-6 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. *To go back to law works is an attempt to produce your own righteousness by works of the flesh. Grace gives the believer the righteousness of Jesus Christ as a gift. Circumcision or uncircumcision is now meaningless...the only thing that pleases God now is faith that works because it is motivated by love.*

Galatians 5:7-10 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be. *These Galatians started out well after Paul's mission there. False teachers derailed them, and Paul wants them to know that what they had been persuaded to believe didn't come from God. A little bad doctrine can have a huge impact on an assembly of believers.*

Galatians 5:11-14 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased. I would they were even cut off which trouble you. For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. *Everywhere Paul went he was persecuted by Jews who hated the message of grace because it goes against their mindset of making themselves acceptable to God. That's why the preaching of the cross is offensive to religious and self-righteous people. Grace gives you freedom from sin, not freedom to sin. Our liberty is so that we can serve each other in love...doing that is fulfilling the intent of the law.*

Galatians 5:15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. *ALL PEOPLE that try to produce their own righteousness become cold, calloused, and critical. Self-righteous people are hyper judgmental that pick and cut on others with their words. This can damage people to the point they leave the assembly altogether. People that know that the only righteousness they have comes from Christ have nothing to prove and through their connection with Him grow in the love of God.*

Galatians 5:16-18 *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and*

these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. *Every Christian has two natures – the flesh and the spirit. These two natures are completely opposite of each other, and they never change. We have a choice of which nature we will follow. The nature that we choose to feed will be stronger. The hardest part of walking in the Spirit is starving the flesh to death. Walking in the Spirit means that our actions and direction are led by the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. *In these verses, Paul explains what the works of the flesh look like. Some are actions – murders, adultery, fornication, drunkenness. Some are attitudes – hatred, envyings, emulations, wrath, lasciviousness. Some are spiritual – idolatry and witchcraft while some are based on selfishness – variance, emulations, strife, seditions. ALL are destructive and harmful to self and others. Christians who indulge in themselves by living after the flesh lose their inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. *He now shows the contrast in flesh and the Spirit by showing what the Spirit produces...the exact opposite. The fruit of the Spirit is the life and Character of Christ produced in us as we walk in fellowship with Him. While the works of the flesh destroy, the fruit of the Spirit provides life and blessing to others. Biblical love seeks the good of others especially when that person can do nothing in return.*

Galatians 5:24-26 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. *The Spirit bears fruit in our lives as we “keep in step” with Him. We walk with Him like soldiers who follow the steps and orders of a commander. To follow Him we must crucify the flesh (deny it what it desires) and submit to the Spirit. Flesh is selfish and wants to be superior. “Vain glory” puts the attention on self and that provokes envying and strife. The Spirit will always seek to glorify Christ and exhort others.*