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GALATIANS CHAPTER 5

In Your Group Read Galatians chapter five (aloud) in a modern translation or read it in the King James Version (below). As a Group, Discuss the general content of the chapter.

THE LETTER OF GALATIANS CHAPTER 5 King James Version

GALATIANS 5: [1] Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. **[2]** Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. **[3]** For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. **[4]** Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. **[5]** For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. **[6]** For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. **[7]** Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? **[8]** This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. **[9]** A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. **[10]** 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. **[11]** And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased. **[12]** I would they were even cut off which trouble you. **[13]** ¶ For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. **[14]** For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; **THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF. (LEVITICUS 19:18)** **[15]** But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. **[16]** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. **[17]** 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. **[18]** But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. **[19]** Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication,

uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, [21] 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. [22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. [24] And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. [25] If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. [26] Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP: Read and Discuss each verse and translation along with the “Additional Information” in each box provided.

**GALATIANS CHAPTER 5
VERSE 1**

Galatians 5: [1] Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. (King James Version)

[1] We have freedom now, because Christ made us free. So stand strong. Do not change and go back into the slavery of the law. **(New Century Version)**

[1] So Christ has made us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get all tied up again in the chains of slavery to Jewish laws and ceremonies. **(The Living Bible)**

[1] In [this] freedom Christ has made us free [and completely liberated us]; stand fast then, and do not be hampered and held ensnared and submit again to a yoke of slavery [which you have once put off]. **(The Amplified New Testament)**

[1] We have freedom now. Christ made us free. So stand firm. Don't turn and go back into slavery. **(The Simple English Bible)**

[1] We have freedom now. Christ made us free. So stand strong. Don't change and go back into the slavery of the law. **(The Easy-to-Read New Testament)**

[1] So take a firm and resolute stand for the liberty you gained when Christ set you free. Don't let anyone entangle you again with a yoke of slavery! **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 1) – “again.” The addition of *again* make it clear that Paul is referring to their former state of subservience either to the Jewish or to the pagan system before they accepted the Christian message. (UBS Help for Translators Handbook, p. 118).

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5

VERSES 2-4

Galatians 5: [2] Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. [3] For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. [4] Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. (King James Version)

[2] Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. **[3]** And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. **[4]** You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. **(New American Standard Bible)**

[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. **[3]** Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. **[4]** You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. **(New International Version)**

² Listen, I Paul tell you that if you go back to the law by being circumcised, Christ does you no good. ³ Again, I warn every man: If you allow yourselves to be circumcised, you must follow all the law. ⁴ If you try to be made right with God through the law, your life with Christ is over—you have left God's grace. **(New Century Version)**

² Listen to me, for this is serious: *if you are counting on circumcision and keeping the Jewish laws to make you right with God, then Christ cannot save you.* ³ I'll say it again. Anyone trying to find favor with God by being circumcised must always obey every other Jewish law or perish. ⁴ Christ is useless to you if you are counting on clearing your debt to God by keeping those laws; you are lost from God's grace. **(The Living Bible)**

Listen! I, Paul, say this to you: if you consent to be circumcised then Christ will be of no use to you at all. I say this solemnly again to every one of you: every man who consents to be circumcised is bound to obey all the rest of the Law! If you try to be justified by the Law you automatically cut yourself off from the power of Christ, you cut yourself off from the range of his grace. (verses 2-4) **(Phillips Translation)**

[2] Notice, it is I, Paul, who tells you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no profit (advantage, avail) to you [for if you distrust Him, you can gain nothing from Him]. **[3]** I once more protest and testify to every man who receives circumcision that he is under obligation and bound to practice the whole of the Law and its ordinances. **[4]** If you seek to be justified and declared righteous and to be given a right standing with God through the Law, you are brought to nothing and so separated (severed) from Christ. You have fallen away from grace (from God's gracious favor and unmerited blessing). **(The Amplified New Testament)**

[2] Listen carefully to what I'm saying. I, Paul, state: If you become circumcised in order to gain God's favor, Christ's sacrifice won't do a thing for you. **[3]** I also warn every one of you: If you become circumcised in order to gain God's favor, you become obligated to obey everything else in the entire Law of Moses, at all times. **[4]** All of you who are now trying to get right with God by obeying the Law of Moses have been cut off

from Christ! You have fallen away from His pardoning mercy, which you never did deserve. **(The Last Days Bible)**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5
VERSES 5-6

Galatians 5: [5] For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. [6] For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. (King James Version)

⁵But the Spirit makes us sure that God will accept us because of our faith in Christ. ⁶If you are a follower of Christ Jesus, it makes no difference whether you are circumcised or not. All that matters is your faith that makes you love others.

(Contemporary English Version)

⁵But we by the help of the Holy Spirit are counting on Christ's death to clear away our sins and make us right with God. ⁶And we to whom Christ has given eternal life don't need to worry about whether we have been circumcised or not, or whether we are obeying the Jewish ceremonies or not; for all we need is faith working through love.

(The Living Bible)

[5] For it is by the Spirit and through faith that we hope to attain that righteousness which we eagerly await. **[6]** If we are in union with Christ Jesus, circumcision makes no difference at all, nor does the lack of it; the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. **(The Revised English Bible)**

[5] For we, [not relying on the Law but] through the [Holy] Spirit's [help], by faith anticipate and wait for the blessing and good for which our righteousness and right standing with God [our conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action, causes us] to hope. **[6]** For [if we are] in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love. **(The Amplified New Testament)**

[5] But we are eagerly waiting for *the fulfillment* of our hope of righteousness – the hope that comes through faith by the Holy Spirit. **[6]** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any consequence; what matters is faith that is energized by love. **(The New Translation)**

[5] But by the Spirit we earnestly anticipate the righteousness for which by faith we hope, **[6]** because in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor the want of it has validity, but faith working through love. **(Berkeley Version)**

[5] But we have a *true* hope: we wait for it eagerly. We will be made right with God through the Spirit. How? By faith! **[6]** When a person is in Christ Jesus, it doesn't matter whether he is circumcised or not. The only thing which is important is faith – the kind of faith which works through love. **(The Simple English Bible)**

[5] But with the continued help of the Holy Spirit, we who belong to Christ because of our faith in what He has done for us, continue to eagerly wait for the fulfillment of the hope we have because of our peace with God thru Him. **[6]** Whether we are circumcised or not is of no importance or concern to those of us who are trusting

in Christ for salvation. What does matter is faith that expresses itself in true love for God and for others. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 5) – “wait for the hope of righteousness.” This “righteousness” is in the future. One should not, however, deduce from this that Paul did not believe in the experience of a right relationship with God as a present reality. It may be that here he is talking eschatologically, that is, of the final day, when man will experience perfect and full reconciliation with God. (See Matt. 25:31-33, 46; Heb. 9:28).

(Verse 6) – “faith which worketh by love.” It is possible to interpret the verb works as passive and to understand love in the sense of God’s love rather than human love. Faith that works through love would then mean “faith which is made effective by God’s love.” (UBS Helps for Translators Handbook, pgs. 123, 125).

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5 VERSES 7-10

Galatians 5: [7] Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? [8] This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. [9] A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. [10] 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. (King James Version)

⁷You were getting along so well. Who has interfered with you to hold you back from following the truth? ⁸It certainly isn’t God, for he is the one who called you to freedom. ⁹But it takes only one wrong person among you to infect all the others—a little yeast spreads quickly through the whole batch of dough! ¹⁰I am trusting the Lord to bring you back to believing as I do about these things. God will judge that person, whoever it is, who has been troubling and confusing you. **(New Living Translation)**

⁷You were doing so well until someone made you turn from the truth. ⁸And that person was certainly not sent by the one who chose you. ⁹A little yeast can change a whole batch of dough, ¹⁰but you belong to the Lord. That makes me certain that you will do what I say, instead of what someone else tells you to do. Whoever is causing trouble for you will be punished. **(Contemporary English Version)**

You were running superbly! Who cut in on you, deflecting you from the true course of obedience? This detour doesn’t come from the One who called you into the race in the first place. And please don’t toss this off as insignificant. It only takes a minute amount of yeast, you know, to permeate an entire loaf of bread. Deep down, the Master has given me confidence that you will not defect. But the one who is upsetting you, whoever he is, will bear the divine judgment. (verses 7-10) **(The Message)**

[7] You began your race well: who made you less anxious to obey the truth? **[8]** You were not prompted by him who called you! **[9]** The yeast seems to be spreading through the whole batch of you. **[10]** I feel sure that, united in the Lord, you will agree with me, and anybody who troubles you in future will be condemned, no matter who he is. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

[7] You were running a good race. You *were obeying* the truth. Who persuaded you to stop? **[8]** That persuasion does not come from God who called you. **[9]** *Be*

careful! “Just a little yeast makes the whole batch of dough rise.” [10] Somebody is disturbing you *with different ideas*. Whoever that person is, he will certainly be punished. I trust in the Lord that you will not believe those ideas. **(The Simple English Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 7) – “who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?” The tense of the verb (aorist) indicates that the work of the false teachers has already been done and that in some way the Galatians have stopped obeying the truth. Truth here is the message which Paul had proclaimed to the Galatians. (UBS Helps for Translators Handbook, p. 125).

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5 VERSES 11-12

Galatians 5: [11] And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased. [12] I would they were even cut off which trouble you. (King James Version)

¹¹ My friends, if I still preach that people need to be circumcised, why am I in so much trouble? The message about the cross would no longer be a problem, if I told people to be circumcised. ¹² I wish that everyone who is upsetting you would not only get circumcised, but would cut off much more! **(Contemporary English Version)**

As for the rumor that I continue to preach the ways of circumcision (as I did in those pre-Damascus Road days), that is absurd. Why would I still be persecuted, then? If I were preaching that old message, no one would be offended if I mentioned the Cross now and then – it would be so watered-down it wouldn't matter one way or the other. Why don't these agitators, obsessive as they are about circumcision, go all the way and castrate themselves! (verses 11-12) **(The Message)**

¹¹ Some people even say that I myself am preaching that circumcision and Jewish laws are necessary to the plan of salvation. Well, if I preached that, I would be persecuted no more—for that message doesn't offend anyone. The fact that I am still being persecuted proves that I am still preaching salvation through faith in the cross of Christ alone. ¹² I only wish these teachers who want you to cut yourselves by being circumcised would cut themselves off from you and leave you alone! **(The Living Bible)**

[11] Christian brothers, if I would still preach that people must go through the religious act of becoming a Jew to be a Christian, I would not be suffering from those who are making it hard for me. If I preached like that, the Jews would have no reason to be against the cross of Christ. **[12]** I wish those who are so willing to cut your bodies would complete the job by cutting themselves off from you. **(The New Life Testament)**

Additional Information: (Verse 11) – “the offence of the cross.” “The implication is clear that Paul at one time preached the necessity of circumcision as a means of acceptance with God” (Wuest's Word Studies, Vol. 1, p. 145). It was as a Pharisee that Paul had preached this. So if Paul was still preaching circumcision as a means of God's acceptance (the same message as the Judaizers) then why was he being persecuted by them? 1 Corinthians 1:23 clearly states that the preaching of Christ crucified was a

stumbling block to the Jews, and an offense (v. 11). Why? Because the preaching of the cross abolished the necessity of law-keeping as a means of acceptance with God.

(Verse 12) – “I would they were even cut off.” A possible alternative interpretation is that Paul may have had in mind the Old Testament understanding of castration which involved exclusion from God’s people (Dt. 23:1). (UBS Helps for Translators, pgs. 129-130).

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5

VERSES 13-15

Galatians 5: [13] ¶ For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. [14] For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF. (LEVITICUS 19:18) [15] But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. (King James Version)

¹³ My brothers and sisters, God called you to be free, but do not use your freedom as an excuse to do what pleases your sinful self. Serve each other with love. ¹⁴ The whole law is made complete in this one command: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” ¹⁵ If you go on hurting each other and tearing each other apart, be careful, or you will completely destroy each other. **(New Century Version)**

¹³ My friends, you were chosen to be free. So don’t use your freedom as an excuse to do anything you want. Use it as an opportunity to serve each other with love. ¹⁴ All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself. ¹⁵ But if you keep attacking each other like wild animals, you had better watch out or you will destroy yourselves. **(Contemporary English Version)**

¹³ For, dear brothers, you have been given freedom: not freedom to do wrong, but freedom to love and serve each other. ¹⁴ For the whole Law can be summed up in this one command: “Love others as you love yourself.” ¹⁵ But if instead of showing love among yourselves you are always critical and catty, watch out! Beware of ruining each other. **(The Living Bible)**

[13] My brothers, you were called, as you know, to liberty; but be careful, or this liberty will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Serve one another, rather, in works of love, **[14]** since the whole of the Law is summarized in a single command: *Love your neighbor as yourself.* **[15]** If you go snapping at each other and tearing each other to pieces, you had better watch or you will destroy the whole community. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

[13] You see, my brothers and sisters, God has called you to be free people, but not so that your freedom will become an excuse to let your sinful minds and bodies run wild. Instead, you must use your Christian love to serve one another as though you were slaves. **[14]** After all, the whole Law is put into one commandment – “You must love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.” **[15]** But if you keep on attacking and tearing each other to pieces, you must watch out so that you won’t completely destroy each other. **(New Testament in Everyday American English)**

Additional Information: (Verse 13) - Paul now introduces a wholly new aspect of the matter of Christian liberty, the danger of abusing it. To those who have been accustomed to regard law as the only controlling factor that stands in the way of self-indulgence and a free reign in sin, and to those who have

not been accustomed to a high standard of ethics, the teaching of Christian liberty might easily mean that there is nothing to stand in the way of the unrestrained indulgence of one's own impulses. Paul often during his ministry, had his hearers react in this way to his teaching of grace. The questions in Romans 6:1 and 6:15, SHALL WE CONTINUE IN SIN, THAT GRACE MAY ABOUND? and, SHALL WE SIN BECAUSE WE ARE NOT UNDER LAW BUT UNDER GRACE? were asked by someone who did not understand grace.

There is a recognition of the fact that the flesh is still with the Christian even though its power over him is broken, and consequently a feeling that even the child of God still needs a restraint put upon him. And this is as it should be. But the mistake that is made so often is that the Mosaic law is substituted for the restraint of the Holy Spirit.

The antidote against using their liberty from the law as a pretext for sinning, is found in the exhortation, "By love serve one another." The Greek word for LOVE here is AGAPE, which refers, not to human affection but to divine love. This love is a love whose chief essence is self-sacrifice for the benefit of the one who is loved. The word SERVE {in Greek} means "to render service to, to do that which is for the advantage of someone else" (Wuest's Word Studies, Vol. 1, pgs. 148-150).

The antidote for the misuse of Christian liberty is the divine principle of love for God and love for our fellowman. As Christians we are free to do anything as long as we can do it with perfect love for God and love for our fellowman. We are not free to do anything that we can't do with love for God and love for our fellowman.

(Verse 14) – The term "all the law" used here is not referring to the law as a legalistic system of earning justification as Paul has been using it, but rather as the spirit of the law as "the expression of God's will" (Rom. 7:12).

(Verse 15) – A person bites with his mouth. So Paul is probably talking about the sins of malicious talk. In Classical Greek "bite, devour and consumed" all speak of the activity of wild animals destroying one another.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5 VERSES 16-18

Galatians 5: [16] This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. [17] 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. [18] But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. (King James Version)

¹⁶ So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Holy Spirit, you are no longer subject to the law. **(New Living Translation)**

¹⁶ If you are guided by the Spirit, you won't obey your selfish desires. ¹⁷ The Spirit and your desires are enemies of each other. They are always fighting each other and keeping you from doing what you feel you should. ¹⁸ But if you obey the Spirit, the Law of Moses has no control over you. **(Contemporary English Version)**

[16] Let me put it like this: if you are guided by the Spirit you will be in no danger of yielding to self-indulgence, **[17]** since self-indulgence is the opposite of the Spirit, the

Spirit is totally against such a thing, and it is precisely because the two are so opposed that you do not always carry out your good intentions. **[18]** If you are led by the Spirit, no law can touch you. **(Jerusalem Bible)**

[16] That's why I challenge you to think, speak, and act in obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be in any danger of gratifying any selfish or wrongful sensual desire. **[17]** Because all selfish desires, and all sensual appetites and desires you are tempted to satisfy in a wrongful way are in violent opposition to the desires of the Holy Spirit for you. And the desires of the Holy Spirit for you are in opposition to the wrongful desires that tempt you. There's a constant war going on inside each of us. The Holy Spirit is waging war against our selfishness and against our temptations to satisfy our sensual appetites and desires in a wrongful way, in order to keep us from the wrong we are tempted to do. **[18]** So then, if you allow yourselves to be led and controlled by the Holy Spirit, you are free from any need to put yourselves under the restraints and control of the Law of Moses. **(The Last Days Bible)**

Additional Information: (Verse 16) - Just as a person who is walking takes one step at a time, places one foot in front of the other, So the Christian is to take each step in his Christian life depending and trusting the Holy Spirit to deliver him from the lust of the flesh. Notice that Paul does not say that if you become strong enough as a Christian that you will not have desires of the flesh. But he says, through dependence upon the Holy Spirit you will not fulfill the desires of the flesh. Paul states that within our natural bodies there is a law of sin dwelling in our members (Rom. 7:20, 23). That will never change until we are glorified (1 Cor. 15:44), so we must exchange our weakness for His strength by depending upon the Holy Spirit to deliver us from sin's evil grip. This is done through faith in Christ, His Spirit (Rom. 8:2, 11-13; 1 Cor. 15:57) and by yielding ourselves unto God (Rom. 6:13). The Holy Spirit's deliverance does not work automatically in the believer's life. He must be trusted and depended upon.

(Verse 17) - The flesh and the Spirit have opposite desires manifesting opposite results (Gal. 5:19-23). Paul states that this struggle causes us to not do the things that we really intend to do. A parallel passage to this would be Romans 7:19 in which Paul states, "For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not that I do." Paul's answer for deliverance is not in self-effort but rather total dependence upon the Spirit of God to break the bonds of sin by dependence upon Him.

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5 VERSES 19-21

Galatians 5: [19] Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, [20] Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, [21] 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. (King James Version)

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past,

that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **(New King James Version)**

[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.

(New International Version)

The activities of the lower nature are obvious. Here is a list: sexual immorality, impurity of mind, sensuality, worship of false gods, witchcraft, hatred, strife, jealousy, bad temper, rivalry, factions, party-spirit, envy, drunkenness, orgies and things like that. I solemnly assure you, as I did before, that those who indulge in such things will never inherit God's kingdom. (verses 19-21) **(Phillips Translation)**

¹⁹When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, ²⁰ idolatry, participation in demonic activities, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, divisions, the feeling that everyone is wrong except those in your own little group, ²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other kinds of sin. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **(New Living Translation)**

¹⁹ People's desires make them give in to immoral ways, filthy thoughts, and shameful deeds. ²⁰ They worship idols, practice witchcraft, hate others, and are hard to get along with. People become jealous, angry, and selfish. They not only argue and cause trouble, but they are ²¹ envious. They get drunk, carry on at wild parties, and do other evil things as well. I told you before, and I am telling you again: No one who does these things will share in the blessings of God's kingdom. **(Contemporary English Version)**

¹⁹But when you follow your own wrong inclinations, your lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, ²⁰idolatry, spiritism (that is, encouraging the activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group—and there will be wrong doctrine, ²¹envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **(The Living Bible)**

It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom. (verses 19-21) **(The Message)**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5
VERSES 22-23

Galatians 5: [22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, [23] Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (King James Version)

²² But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law. **(New Living Translation)**

²² But the Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong. **(New Century Version)**

The Spirit, however, produces in human life fruits such as these: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, fidelity, tolerance and self-control – and no law exists against any of them. (verses 22-23) **(Phillips Translation)**

[22] But the fruit that comes from having the Holy Spirit in our lives is: love, joy, peace, not giving up, being kind, being good, having faith, **[23]** being gentle, and being the boss over our own desires. The Jewish Law is not against these things. **(The New Life Testament)**

But the harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good temper, kindness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control: - there is no law against those who practice such things. (verses 22-23) **(Moffatt Translation)**

GALATIANS CHAPTER 5
VERSES 24-26

Galatians 5: [24] And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. [25] If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. [26] Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. (King James Version)

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ If we are living now by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or irritate one another, or be jealous of one another. **(New Living Translation)**

²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their own sinful selves. They have given up their old selfish feelings and the evil things they wanted to do. ²⁵ We get our new life from the Spirit, so we should follow the Spirit. ²⁶ We must not be proud or make trouble with each other or be jealous of each other. **(New Century Version)**

²⁴ And because we belong to Christ Jesus, we have killed our selfish feelings and desires. ²⁵ God's Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit. ²⁶ But don't

be conceited or make others jealous by claiming to be better than they are.

(Contemporary English Version)

[24] Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed their sinful nature to his cross. They don't want what their sinful nature loves and longs for. [25] Since we live by the Spirit, let us march in step with the Spirit. [26] Let us not become proud. Let us not make each other angry. Let us not want what belongs to others. **(New**

International Reader's Version)

[24] Those who belong to Christ have put to death the wrongful passions and desires of the flesh. [25] Since it is the Holy Spirit who has given us new life and hope, we should always let Him run and control our lives. [26] And we shouldn't be conceited and boastful. If we are, we will only drive one another to jealousy and hard feelings.

(The Last Days Bible)

Additional Information: (Verses 24-25) – Christians were identified with Christ in His death and resurrection (Rom. 6:1-6). Paul describes repentance metaphorically as a crucifixion of the old life of sin, turning from it fully and finally. The tense of the verb indicates a decisive act, which we performed at our conversion. This does not mean that saved persons are without sin. It does mean we constantly fight against sin and yield ourselves to the Spirit (Spirit Filled Life Bible, p. 1780; Disciples Study Bible, p.1498).

“Paul reminds his readers that when they came to Christ, they repented fully of the works of the sinful nature and indeed turned their backs on them forever. This act they must sustain. In speaking of this radical repentance, Paul uses the vivid image of crucifixion, though in a different way from such passages as Ro 6:6 and Gal 2:20. In those instances, the verb is in the passive voice (“was crucified,” “have been crucified”), and the reference is to what has been done for believers as a result of Christ's death. But in this passage the verb is in the active voice (“have crucified”) and points rather to what believers have themselves done and must continue to do. The proper term to describe this act is repentance. Thus believers have already repented of their former way of life to the degree of actually having executed the old nature. This does not mean that the battle is thereby over, however. As in an actual crucifixion, life lingers even though the criminal has been nailed to the cross. Nevertheless, believers must regard the decisive act as having been done. They are not to seek to remove from the cross what has once been nailed there” (NIV Bible Commentary).

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Galatians Chapter 5)

Instructions for Group Leader: Do not let the group read the following questions and answers. The leader of your group should ask the group the following questions and encourage the group to discover the answers by going to the appropriate Scriptures. **Discuss and answer (as a group) the questions correctly by using the Scripture(s). Turn to Galatians Chapter 5.**

1. **Read Galatians 5:1.** Christ made us free. Don't get tied up again to the chains of slavery to: a. drugs. b. alcohol. c. Jewish laws and ceremonies.
2. **Read Galatians 5:2.** If you let yourselves be circumcised as a means of justification, that is, to make yourselves right with God, then Christ will: a. be happy. b. be of no value to you at all. c. answer your prayers.
3. **Read Galatians 5:2 (The Living Bible).** If you are counting on circumcision or any other religious law to make you right with God, then Christ: a. will overlook your faults. b. help you in your effort. c. cannot save you.
4. **Read Galatians 5:4.** If you are trying to get right with God by obeying religious law, then you have fallen: a. down a hill. b. off a ladder. c. on your knees. d. from God's grace.
5. **Read Galatians 5:5.** We are eagerly waiting for the fulfillment of our hope of righteousness that comes through faith and by the Holy Spirit. True or False.
6. **Read Galatians 5:6.** Whether we are circumcised or not is of no importance or concern to those who are trusting Christ for salvation. True or False.
7. **Read Galatians 5:6.** What does matter is faith that expresses itself in love for God and others. True or False.
8. **Read Galatians 5:7.** The Galatians were running a good race. They were obeying the truth. Someone was trying to stop them. True or False.
9. **Read Galatians 5:9.** It takes only one person with wrong doctrine to infect all the others. True or False.
10. **Read Galatians 5:11.** The rumor that Paul continued to preach the ways of circumcision (as he did in his pre-conversion days) is absurd. True or False.
11. **Read Galatians 5:13.** As Christians we were given freedom, but not freedom to do wrong, but to love and serve each other. True or False.

12. **Read Galatians 5:14.** All the law is summed up in one command: “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.” True or False.
13. **Read Galatians 5:16.** If we walk and are guided by the Holy Spirit then we will not be in danger of yielding to: a. the flesh. b. self-indulgence. c. all the above.
14. **Read Galatians 5:17.** The Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from the flesh. True or False.
15. **Read Galatians 5:18.** If you allow yourselves to be led and controlled by the Holy Spirit, you are free from any need to be put under the restraints of the law. True or False.
16. **Read Galatians 5:19-21.** A person that practices the works of the flesh (indulges in & lives that sort of life), will: a. inherit the kingdom of God. b. not inherit the kingdom of God. c. be a bad testimony.
17. **Read Galatians 5:22-23.** The fruit that comes from having the Holy Spirit in our lives is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. True or False.
18. **Read Galatians 5:21.** Compare Galatians 5:21 in the New King James Version with Galatians 5:23 in the Moffatt Translation. What word identifies and shows the fruit of those saved and those lost? The word *practice* shows the difference between true repentance and the lack of it.
19. **Read Galatians 5:24.** Those who belong to Christ Jesus: a. say it doesn't matter what you do. b. don't want what the sinful nature loves and longs for.
20. **Read Galatians 5:25.** We should follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. True or False.

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