

STUDYING THE BOOK OF GALATIANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 10 - Freedom in Christ - [Galatians 5:1-15](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

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Christ Set Us Free!

5 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!

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.*

*Gal. 5:3 – “You become obligated to obey everything else in the entire Law of Moses, at all times,” *or perish (implied).*

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.

*Gal. 5:4 – “Cut off from Christ!” The New American Standard Version states, “*You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by the law.*”

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 of righteousness.*

Gal. 5:5 – “The hope of righteousness.” The “hope of righteousness” for which we eagerly await is the full consummation of our salvation. It begins now with imputed righteousness by faith and will conclude with outward glorification (Rom. 8:19, 21). This is God's final verdict at the end of time of “not guilty,” received by faith and provided through the death of Christ.

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.*

*Gal. 5:6 – See Mark 12:28-34.

⁷You started out running so well. Who was it that got in your way and kept you from continuing to be convinced as to what the truth really is?

⁸That kind of persuasion isn't coming from God, *who is calling you to freedom in Christ!*

⁹Remember, it takes only a little yeast* to change the whole batch of dough.

Gal. 5:9 – “Yeast.” *Yeast here refers to false teaching.*

¹⁰But I still have full confidence in you. I'm sure the Lord will convince you that what I've told you here is the truth. As for the one who is troubling you, whoever he is, he will have to bear the judgment of God that he deserves.

¹¹And listen, brothers and sisters, if I'm still preaching that circumcision is necessary for salvation, why am I still being persecuted by the Jews? If I preached that, there wouldn't be any problem with the Jews about the cross of Christ.*

*Gal. 5:11 – Paul at one time preached the necessity of circumcision as a means of acceptance with God. He was a Pharisee when he preached this. If Paul was still preaching circumcision, why was he being persecuted? First Corinthians 1:23 states that the preaching of Christ crucified was a stumbling block to the Jews because it abolished the necessity of law-keeping as a means of acceptance with God.

¹²As for those who are causing you all this confusion by insisting you must be circumcised, I wish they would go all the way and emasculate* themselves!

Gal. 5:12 – “Emasculate,” or *castrate*.

¹³Because, my brothers and sisters, you have been called to freedom. But you must not use your freedom to satisfy the various desires of your body and mind in a wrong way. Instead, you are to live for the good of one another in the spirit of love.

¹⁴Because the whole of the Old Testament Law is summed up in one command. It's this:

“You are to love others in the same way that you love yourself.” (*Leviticus 19:18*)

¹⁵But if you keep on biting and tearing at each other, watch out or you'll completely destroy one another.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 10 - Freedom in Christ - [Galatians 5:1-15](#)

122. What challenge did Paul set before the Galatians? ([5:1](#))
123. Why did Paul challenge the Christians to be resolute? ([5:1](#))
124. What warning did Paul issue to the Galatians? ([5:2](#))
125. How would turning to the Law obligate the Galatian Christians? ([5:3](#))
126. What consequence would seeking justification by Law bring? ([5:4](#))
127. How did Paul contrast legalists and true believers? ([5:5](#))
128. How did Paul sum up the significance of circumcision? ([5:6](#))
129. What really matters? ([5:6](#))
130. How did Paul describe the Galatians' Christian experience? ([5:7](#))
131. How had false teaching affected the Galatian church? ([5:8-9](#))
132. Why was Paul optimistic about the Galatians? ([5:10](#))
133. How did the Cross mark the end of the Law? ([5:11](#))
134. What strong words did Paul have for the Judaizers? ([5:12](#))
135. How were the Galatian Christians to use their freedom? ([5:14](#))
136. What were the Galatians called on to guard against? ([5:15](#))
137. What are the side effects of trying to be saved by keeping the Law?

Lesson 11 - Life by the Spirit - [Galatians 5:16-26](#)

The War Between Flesh and Spirit

¹⁶That'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.

¹⁷Because 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.

¹⁸So 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.

¹⁹Now the actions produced by corrupt and unrenewed human nature are very evident. They include: adultery, sexual immorality, all forms of unclean sexual acts, loose living,

²⁰idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, fights caused by disagreements, jealousies, outbursts of rage, selfish ambition, violent disagreements, heresies,

²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, carousings, and all other such things. As I warned you before, I warn you again: Those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God!

²²But when you allow the Holy Spirit to control your life, the fruit He will produce in you will be: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

²³gentleness, and self-control.* There is no law against such behavior.

***Gal. 5:22, 23 – The final results of true conversion are the fruits of the Spirit, which are listed here. These fruits are seen in greater measure as one grows in the knowledge of God's message to mankind, yields to the Holy Spirit, and is filled with the Spirit.**

²⁴Those who belong to Christ have put to death the wrongful passions and desires of the flesh.

***Gal. 5:24 – True Christians have turned their backs on their old life, crushing and crucifying it.**

²⁵Since it is the Holy Spirit who has given us new life and hope, we should always let Him run and control our lives.

²⁶And we shouldn't be conceited and boastful. If we are, we will only drive one another to jealousy and hard feelings.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 11 - Life by the Spirit - [Galatians 5:16-26](#)

138. What would happen if the Galatians lived by the power of the Holy Spirit? ([5:16](#))

139. What is the conflict between the sinful nature and the Spirit? ([5:17](#))

140. How were the Galatians affected by the conflict between the sinful nature and the Spirit? ([5:17](#))
141. How could the Galatian Christians lead godly lives? ([5:18](#))
142. What is one obvious feature of human nature? ([5:19](#))
143. To what sexual sins are we prone? ([5:19](#))
144. What religious sins does the sinful nature produce? ([5:20](#))
145. What societal evils come from our sinful nature? ([5:20-21](#))
146. In what sense is Paul's list of sins incomplete? ([5:21](#))
147. What warning is given to those who live sinful lives? ([5:21](#))
148. What happens to a Christian who is under the control of the Holy Spirit? ([5:22-23](#))
149. What is the result of yielding to the Spirit? ([5:22-23](#))
150. How do the Christian graces affect all areas of the believer's life? ([5:22-23](#))
151. How is a Christian empowered to live by the Spirit? ([5:24-25](#))
152. What did Paul tell the Galatian Christians not to do? ([5:26](#))
153. Who is kept out of the kingdom of God? Why?