

Chapter 5

REVIEW: Gal 4:28-31 NIV Now you, brothers and sisters, **like Isaac, are children of promise.** 29 At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. 30 But what does Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son." 31 Therefore, brothers and sisters, **we are not children** of the slave woman, but **of the free woman.**

Gal 5:1-26 NIV **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.**

Stand firm...this is our responsibility...don't allow yourself to be burdened again by a **yoke of slavery**

- Act 15:10-11 NIV Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a **yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?** 11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

We are free

Free from sin, slaves to righteousness - free from sin, slaves to God

- Rom 6:18-22 NIV **You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.** 19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now **offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.** 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been **set free from sin and have become slaves of God**, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

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 the law have been **alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.** 5 For **through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.**

- If you become circumcised - Christ is of no value to you (no benefit)
- If you become circumcised - you are obligated to fulfill the whole law
- If you seek justification from the law, you are alienated from Christ - you are fallen from grace

Alienated from Christ

- **Alienated** - to be (render) entirely idle (useless), literally or figuratively
- Gal 5:4 KJV **Christ is become of no effect unto you**, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Fallen Away from Grace

- **Fallen** - to drop away; specifically be driven out of one's course; figuratively to lose, become inefficient:
 - Gal 1:6 NIV I am astonished that you are so quickly **deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ** and are turning to a different gospel--
- 2Pe 3:17-18 NIV Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.
- We are called to live in the grace of Christ - when we turn back to circumcision, we are being driven off course, Christ is of no value.

Grace is what enables us to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives

- Tit 2:11-15 NIV For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. 12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope--the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. 15 These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

Through the Spirit we await by faith the righteousness for which we hope

Salvation is a process - there are past, present and future elements to it

- Eph 2:8-9 NIV For it is **by grace you have been saved**, through faith--and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.
- 1Co 1:18 NIV For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but **to us who are being saved** it is the power of God.
- 1Pe 1:3-9 NIV Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has **given us new birth into a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. **This inheritance is kept in heaven for you**, 5 who **through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.** 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come **so that the proven genuineness of your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.** 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 **for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.**

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. **The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.**

Remember, **In Christ** these distinctions go away, there is neither male nor female, slave or free, male or female...now including neither circumcision nor uncircumcision.

The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love

Our faith is not static - nor is it unproductive...

- Faith EXPRESSES itself **through love**
- **KJV** = Faith which **worketh** by love

The same word for WORK is used here in Romans 7 - it is the idea that the sin worked in us to product fruit unto death...well, in a similar way, faith also works in us - expressing itself through love

- Rom 7:5-6 NIV For when we were in the realm of the flesh, **the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us**, so that we bore fruit for death. 6 But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit**, and not in the old way of the written code.

We also see in chapter 6 - WHAT COUNTS is the new creation...

- Gal 6:15 NIV Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; **what counts is the new creation**

We are not under law to seek righteousness, but as a result of our faith in Christ our lives reflect that his grace, his Spirit and his truth are at work in our lives - we are new creations in Christ, and the fruit of the Spirit is the result

7 **You were running a good race.** Who cut in on you to keep you from **obeying the truth**? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 **"A little yeast** works through the whole batch of dough." 10 I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into **confusion**, whoever that may be, **will have to pay the penalty.**

The Christian walk is like a race

- 1Co 9:24 NIV Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? **Run in such a way as to get the prize.**
- Heb 12:1 NIV Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. **And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,**

Running the race = obeying the truth

- Gal 2:5 NIV We did not give in to them for a moment, so that **the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.**
- Gal 2:14 NIV When I saw that **they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel**, I said to Cephas in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"
- Gal 3:1 KJV O foolish Galatians, who hath **bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth**, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

That kind of persuasion is not from him who calls you (i.e. not from God)

He called us to live in the grace of Christ, He called us to freedom - He would not persuade us to circumcision

- Gal 1:6 NIV I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who **called you to live in the grace of Christ** and are turning to a different gospel--
- Gal 5:13 NIV You, my brothers and sisters, **were called to be free**. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

A little yeast

Bad doctrine is like yeast/leaven

- Mat 16:12 NIV Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

The one throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty

Teachers are judged more strictly

- Jas 3:1 NIV Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

11 Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.

The offense of the cross

One of the arguments of the Judaizers was that Paul was actually still preaching circumcision, but that in the case of the Galatians he watered down the message in order to gain converts.

- The offense of the cross is a reminder that I am a sinner, I can do nothing to save myself, and I need a savior, My Sin put him there, His Love put him there

- 1Co 1:23-24 NIV but we preach Christ crucified: a **stumbling** block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
- 1Pe 2:6-8 KJV Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And **a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence**, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

12 As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

The idea here, Paul seems to say they should go all the way castrate themselves

- The word for emasculate is to cut off (ie. Peter cut off his ear John 18:10, or Mark 9:43...:"if your hand offends you cut it off")

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. **But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh**; rather, **serve one another humbly in love**. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "**Love your neighbor as yourself**." 15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

The purpose of our freedom - to serve on another in love

- Not to indulge in the flesh (remember there was a fear that no law would result in licentious living)
- But instead to serve one another humbly in love
 - He is referring back to vs 6 "**The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.**"

The entire law is fulfilled in one command - love your neighbor as yourself

Jesus taught the same thing

- Mat 22:36-40 NIV "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 **All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.**"

Perhaps there were interpersonal issues in the church - biting & devouring

Paul addresses it by saying that the fulfillment of the law is found in loving one another. They were biting and devouring one another at the same time as they were pursuing righteousness under the

law. It seems like such a contradiction -- seeking to be righteous by turning back to the slavery of the law, yet they could not treat their brothers with love. Don't become a slave under the law...rather look at the freedom you have been given, and by love serve one another.

It is odd to think that a church could be so set on going back under the law to be pleasing to him, yet to have their interpersonal relationships devoid of the most basic and greatest commandment.

16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. **They are in conflict with each other**, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

The answer for all this is to walk by the Spirit

Paul taught a lot of things about the Holy Spirit to the Galatians...

- **Walk** - Gk - refers to the direction and purpose of life

They received the Spirit

- Gal 3:2 NIV I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?
- Gal 3:14 NIV He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

They began in the Spirit

- Gal 3:3 NIV Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?

God gave them His Spirit

- Gal 3:5 NIV So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

He sent the Spirit into their hearts

- Gal 4:6 NIV Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

Through the Spirit they await the fullness of their salvation

- Gal 5:5 NIV For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.

The Spirit and the flesh are in conflict with one another

- Gal 5:17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. **They are in conflict with each other**
- The best way to overcome the flesh is to walk in the Spirit (not by trying to live under the law)

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, **you are not under the law**. 19 The acts of the flesh 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**.

- If I am led by the Spirit I am not under the law - the effects of the law (which is to arouse sin in my life) loses its power
- I am awaiting my inheritance - the salvation of my soul, but I forfeit that if I continue in the life of sin
- Coming back under the law will only arouse the sin in me again
 - Gal 2:11 For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death.

22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, forbearance, 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 flesh** 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.

The fruit of the Spirit in some way defines the two things that matter

- The fruit of the Spirit is **faith expressing itself in love**
- The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of **the new creation**
- Against such things there is no law

If I belong to Christ, I have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires

- This is a present reality

Since we live by the Spirit - KEEP IN STEP with the Spirit

- There is no law against the fruit of the Spirit
- If I am Christ's I have crucified the flesh
- Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit
 - vs 25 walk - that which is a basic element - it means to learn to walk