

Galatians Chapter 5:13-26

Meeting Guide

Note: Questions were either taken from or adapted from “No Other Gospel, The Book of Galatians” study guide from Citadel Square Church and *Galatians: The Gospel of Free Grace 13-Lesson Study* by Jon Nielsen and Philip Graham Ryken

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Read Scripture

Read Galatians 5:13-26 together.

Bible Study

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God’s Word together.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all of your life.

Pray

- Take time to pray for one another and ask for His grace to apply His Word to our daily lives.

Galatians 5:13-26 (ESV)

“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. ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For 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. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹envy, 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. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

Open: How do people in the world define freedom? What is problematic in some of these definitions of freedom?

Study:

- 1) What repeated words or phrases does Paul use in this passage? Why is the repetition significant? What is new to this letter? What ideas has he already mentioned earlier in the letter?
- 2) Freedom in Christ can motivate love that fulfills the law—something that legalism can't do. Read Galatians 5:13-15, John 8:36, and Romans 6:20-23.
 - What is true freedom? Can serving be considered freedom? How does freedom motivate believers to serve one another?
 - How can freedom be abused? What are the consequences (for the believer and the church)?
- 3) Paul states that the flesh and the Spirit are opposed to one another. Read Romans 7:1-25. How does that passage complement Galatians 5:16-21, 24-26?
- 4) What observations can you make about what Paul chooses to include in his list of “works of the flesh” (5:19-21)? What observations can you make about what he chooses to include in his list of “fruit of the Spirit” (5:22-23)? What is the significance of his choice of words—“works” of the flesh and “fruit” of the Spirit? What is implied by the metaphor of “fruit”?
- 5) Why does Paul include the language of crucifixion with regard to the “flesh” of the Christian and its desires (5:24)? What does this picture of crucifixion imply about our desires, as well as our connection to Jesus Christ our Savior?

Apply:

- 6) What is the significance of Paul's focus on the Spirit in this passage? Why is the Spirit so important in the life of the believer, and what do you sometimes forget about the role of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- 7) What characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit are you praying for the Lord's help to grow in? Are there any works of the flesh that you need to repent of? (See 1 John 1:8-2:2)
- 8) What might it look like for you to more intentionally “keep in step” with the Spirit (Gal. 5:25)? What means has God given us to maintain the vitality of our relationship with Him? Why do we so often neglect an intentional nurturing of our relationship with God, by his Spirit, and how can we overcome these hindrances?

PRAY:

- Take time thank God that He loves and accepts you because of your trust in the gospel.
- Ask God for the Spirit's help to use the freedom you have to love and serve others.
- Ask God for the Spirit's power to resist the impulses of our flesh and to instead live for Jesus.