



Freedom and Guidance

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: Study Paul’s teaching on our Freedom in Christ and the Guidance of the Holy Spirit!

Read Galatians 5:1 - 5:6 – Christ has Set Us Free!

- Paul segues from being children of the free woman, to the Freedom we have in Christ!
- He exhorts us to “stand firm” since Christ set us free and to not submit again to the “yoke of slavery”, thus negating our freedom.
- Paul then transitions back into his teaching on the failure that besets us, should we rely on the Law as our saving grace.
- If we view circumcision as our remedy, we must look to keeping the entirety of the Law. Which severs our payment by Christ that we receive through the Grace of God and our justification would only come through the Law – impossible for natural man!
- Through the Holy Spirit we receive the grace for faith in Christ, that frees us from the Law!

Read Galatians 5:7 - 5:15 – Beware the Leaven – Remember the Freedom

- Paul now moves to questioning the battle within – the Galatian believers were “running well” and Paul wanted them to answer “who hindered you from obeying the truth?” – this was not from God!
- The illustration of the leaven allows the believers to grasp how even a drop of bad teaching, could ruin the whole message – we must beware of this today as well!
- He then shifts to exhorting them, that he is confident that the Lord will keep them from the ungodly views that were being presented to them.
- Paul even goes to the extreme to make a point – he tells the Galatians that he wished the false teachers would castrate themselves!
- He then reminds them that they were called to freedom, but not a freedom that is used for abuse through continual and willing sin.
- He closes this thought by exhorting them to love their neighbors as themselves.

Read Galatians 5:16 - 5:26 – Walk by The Spirit!

- Paul now moves to an exhortation to walk by the Spirit of God, not by the flesh! They’re opposites!
- In verses 19-21 Paul shares the works of the flesh and in verses 22-23 the Fruit of the Spirit! He exhorts the fact that “those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh” – we must “live by” and “keep in step with the Spirit”!
- These are great verses to study in depth! Crucifying the flesh is never easy – but the Spirit guides us!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Do you understand the freedom that Christ has given us?

- By Grace, through faith, not through anything we can do – the Gift of God has given us freedom and salvation in Christ! We cannot do it on our own, we received freedom from the curse of the Law!

Question 2: Do you understand why Paul would bring up “a little leaven leavens the whole lump”?

- We should be sure to grasp this nugget of wisdom, it is applicable through all times and to all generations until the Lord returns.
- The moment we allow any form of “leaven”, whether works based gospel, false teaching, experience over truth religion – we are introducing “leaven” that can ruin our entire walk of faith.
- All that we consume in our spiritual diet should be aligned to and in agreement with the truth of Scripture. Scripture has to be our litmus test!

Question 3: Have you personally committed yourself to Walking by the Spirit? If so, how? What struggle have you encountered?

- First and foremost, if you have not encountered struggles – you need to check the commitment you have made to Walking by the Spirit! The “flesh” is always going to fight against the Spirit, which is why it is necessary for us to commit our lives to crucifying the flesh!
- As we look through the works of the flesh, many could be considered fulfilling, satisfying and even pleasing, but are they beneficial? No, they are superficial, they are temporal and they are ungodly!
- In looking at the Fruit of the Spirit, they can be very trying at times. Patience may “be a virtue”, but it is also an inconvenience and frustration to our flesh. Peace and kindness sound great, but can be the furthest thing from our minds when someone is attacking us. Just a couple examples that illustrate for us the potential for severe failure, if we do not crucify the flesh and Walk by the Spirit!

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data