

Freedom in the Spirit: Love for Others

Galatians 5:13-25 / September 24, 2022

Freedom in Christ (5:13-15)

For you were called to freedom, brothers. (5:13a)

- **True Freedom Does Not Indulge in the Flesh (5:13b)**

Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but

- **True Freedom Does Not Exploit Others (5:13c)**

through love serve one another.

- **True Freedom Does Not Disregard the Law (5:14)**

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

1. "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.
2. "You shall not steal;
3. you shall not deal falsely;
4. you shall not lie to one another.
5. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.
6. "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning.
7. You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.
8. "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.
9. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and
10. you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.
11. "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him.
12. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but

you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:9-17, ESV)

- **Warning Against Not Living in True Freedom (5:15)**

But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

The Battle: Freedom in Christ Against the Enslavement of the Flesh (5:16-18)

But I say, **walk** by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Walk

Abraham in Canaan

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." (Genesis 17:1-2, ESV)

Moses in the Wilderness After the Red Sea

Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God, and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. (Exodus 18:19-20, ESV)

Moses in the Wilderness After Mt. Sinai

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, I am the LORD your God. You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God. (Leviticus 18:1-4, ESV)

Moses in the Wilderness after 40 Years

You shall be careful therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. **You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you,** that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess. (Deuteronomy 5:32-33, ESV)

Joshua in the Promised Land After Distributing the Tribes

Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents. (Joshua 22:3-5, ESV)

David in the Kingdom of Israel

When David’s time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, “I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, **walking in his ways and keeping his statutes**, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons pay close attention to their way, **to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul**, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’ (I Kings 2:1-4, ESV)

Nehemiah in the Land After the Captivity

“The rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and all who have separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the Law of God, their wives, their sons, their daughters, all who have knowledge and understanding, join with their brothers, their nobles, and enter into a curse and an oath **to walk in God’s Law** that was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord and his rules and his statutes. (Nehemiah 10:28-29, ESV)

For 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.
But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Born of the Spirit: Jesus

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.”

Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:1-8, ESV)

Born of the Spirit: Peter

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:36-41, ESV)

Defined: Works of the Flesh (5:19-21)

Now the works of the flesh are evident:

Sexual Distortions

1. sexual immorality, (*married or unmarried*)
2. impurity, (*unnatural*)
3. sensuality, (*open and reckless contempt*)

God Distortions

4. idolatry, (*worship of other gods*)
5. sorcery, (*secret worship of the demonic*)

Social Distortions

6. enmity,
7. strife,
8. jealousy,
9. fits of anger,
10. rivalries,
11. dissensions,
12. divisions,
13. envy,

Personal Distortions

14. drunkenness,
15. orgies, and
16. things like these.

Consequences

I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Defined: Works of the Spirit (5:22-23)

But the fruit of the Spirit is

God-Centered: Contrasted with the Works of the Flesh: idolatry, sorcery

1. love,
2. joy,
3. peace,

Man-Centered: Contrasted with the Works of the Flesh: enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy,

4. patience,
5. kindness,
6. goodness,

Personal-Centered: Contrasted with the Works of the Flesh: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.

7. faithfulness,
8. gentleness,
9. self-control;

against such things there is no law.

Death and Life (5:24-25)

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.