

GALATIANS

Chapter 5 Bible Study

Review of Chapter 4

1. Before Christ came, and set us free from sin, by his death on the cross, what were we slaves to?
2. Why did God send His own Son into the world to die?
3. And because we are His “Adopted Children”, what did God send to us?
4. What did Abraham do instead of waiting for God to fulfill His promise?
5. What were the names of Abrahams two wives that the Bible uses to compare faith (trusting God), and works (trusting your own effort)? And what two sons came from those two wives? And what two nations came from his sons?

Freedom in Christ

¹ So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

² Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³ I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. ⁴ For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.

⁵ But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. ⁶ For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.

1. What do we get when we try to make ourselves “right with God” by doing the “right things”? (2 things from V4) _____

2. When we put our faith in Christ, there is no benefit to trying to meet the requirements of the Law (Like Circumcision). What is important to God? (V6)

⁷ You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? ⁸ It certainly isn't God, for he is the one who called you to freedom. ⁹ This false teaching is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough! ¹⁰ I am trusting the Lord to keep you from believing false teachings. God will judge that person, whoever he is, who has been confusing you.

¹¹ Dear brothers and sisters, if I were still preaching that you must be circumcised—as some say I do—why am I still being persecuted? If I were no longer preaching salvation through the cross of Christ, no one would be offended. ¹² I just wish that those troublemakers who want to mutilate you by circumcision would mutilate themselves.

¹³ For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. ¹⁴ For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

3. What is false teaching compared to? (V9) _____

4. What will the consequences be for those that choose to confuse people with false teaching that is contrary to the Bible? (V10) _____

5. As Christians, we are not to use our "Freedom in Christ" as an excuse to sin, how should we use our Freedom instead? (V13) _____

6. If you were to sum up God's Law (The Old Testament requirements), in one command, what would it be? (V14) _____

Living by the Spirit's Power

¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these.

-Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every

part of our lives. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

7. If we let the Holy Spirit guide our lives, instead of trying to live by a rule book of do's and don'ts, what will we "NOT" be doing? (V16) _____

8. How is "Following the Holy Spirit" different than following "the Sinful Nature"? (V17) _____

9. What is the result of these two forces constantly fighting each other within us? (V17b) _____

10. What are the results (or behaviors) of following the sinful nature? (16 things from V19-21) _____

11. If we are living this way, and not repenting from our sinful actions, what will the result be? (V21b) _____

NOTE: *To Repent of your sins means that ... 1) You feel sorry for your actions, because you've sinned against God. 2) You ask God to forgive you and to help you do the right thing. 3) You make the choice in your heart to turn away from following your sinful nature, and you follow God's Holy Spirit inside you, instead.*

12. What are the results of following the Holy Spirit that are seen as characteristics of a person that is living for God, and not their sinful nature? (V22-23) _____

13. What have those that have surrendered their lives to Christ done with their sinful nature? (V24) _____

Reflection/Application: What is the one thing that really stood out to you, and how can you apply it to your life? _____

Review Question Answers from Chapter FOUR

1. Basic spiritual principles of this world (Human Effort w/o God).
2. He sent Jesus to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.
3. He sent His Holy Spirit (The Seal of our Adoption).
4. He had a child with his slave wife.
5. Sarah and Hagar. Isaac and Ishmael.

Chapter 5 Answer Key

1. We cut ourselves off from Christ and fall away from God's grace.
2. Faith expressing itself in love.
3. Yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough!
4. God will judge them.

5. To serve one another in love.

6. Love Your Neighbor as Yourself.

7. We will not be doing what our sinful nature craves.

8. They are opposites and are constantly fighting each other.

9. We are not free to carry out our good intentions.

10. Sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these.

11. We will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

12. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control.

13. They have nailed it to His cross and crucified it there.