

## Galatians 5

### I. The freedom of the Gospel (1-12).

#### A. Stand firm (1-2; cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-2, 58).

1. We were set free to BE free (Jn. 8:31- 32).
2. Don't let yourself be burdened = someone else is doing it.
3. The yoke of slavery (Acts 15:10).

#### B. Danger of legalism (3-4).

1. Circumcision.
  - a. Ultimate sign of being a Jew.
  - b. Obligated to keep the whole law (twice, cf. ch.1).
2. Alienated from Christ.
  - a. Choosing legalism as the principle by which one desires to be related to Christ.
  - b. Fallen away from grace.

#### C. True relationship (5-6).

1. Righteousness comes by faith, not works.
2. Through the Spirit.
3. Legalism means nothing; it is irrelevant.
4. Expresses itself through love.

#### D. Final confrontation (7-12).

1. They had a good start.
2. Cut in on = hindered, blocked, placed an obstacle.
  - a. This is not from Jesus.
  - b. Even a little bit of law brings total corruption (Josh. 7).
3. Confidence.
  - a. In the Lord.
  - b. They will stand firm in what they were taught.
4. False teachers will be judged (Mt. 18:6-7, Jas. 3:1, Gal. 1).
  - a. Foolishness of preaching law and grace together.
  - b. Jesus's death becomes pointless.

#### E. Go the whole way.

1. In the region of Galatia, esp. around Phrygia, pagan priests practiced sacred castration, esp. in the service of Cybele, goddess of fertility and nature.
2. If circumcision makes you righteous, go all the way.

## II. The purpose of our freedom (13-15).

- A. Not for self-serving.
- B. For serving others.
  - 1. To “serve as slaves.”
  - 2. Loving.
  - 3. Not destroying.
    - a. Bite – as snakes.
    - b. Devour – picture of annihilation.
    - c. Tear to pieces.

## III. The antagonism of the flesh and the Spirit (16-26).

- A. Mutually exclusive.
  - 1. Live = a way of life.
  - 2. The tug of war (Ro. 7).
    - a. The Spirit makes the believer want to do right.
    - b. The flesh makes the believer want to do wrong.
- B. The Spirit delivers us from the flesh.
  - 1. Led by the Spirit (sanctification).
  - 2. Delivers us from the law.
- C. The deeds of the flesh.
  - 1. A sample list.
  - 2. Such people will not be in the Kingdom of God.
    - a. Greek: “commit” usu. of unpraiseworthy action.
    - b. Make it a habitual practice.
- D. The fruit of the Spirit.
  - 1. Singular indicates the wholeness of it (characteristics of love?).
  - 2. A sample list.
- E. The believer belongs to Christ.
  - 1. Has crucified the flesh.
    - a. Done by the believer.
    - b. Aorist tense (once and done).
  - 2. Live by the Spirit.
    - a. Voluntary.
    - b. Continuous.
  - 3. Not acting according to the flesh.

### Flesh in the NT.

- 1. Physical bodies.
- 2. Symbol of weakness.
- 3. Synonym for sin.