

CBC BIBLE STUDY—FEBRUARY 7, 2024

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

GALATIANS —CHAPTER FIVE

“SO, CHRIST HAS TRULY SET US FREE”!

A. Paul’s summary statement to the Galatians

What does this mean (freedom)?

A. Contrary to popular opinion, freedom does not mean anarchy, or anything goes. Yes, we are free to do anything, but not everything is beneficial.

1Corinthians 10:23 NLT

“You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is good for you. You say, “I am allowed to do anything”—but not everything is beneficial.”

CONSEQUENCES OF GOING BACK TO THE LAW

1. Invalidation of the work of Christ on the Cross

1. Obligation (bound to the whole law)

1. Removal from the sphere of GRACE

A. Saved—Being Saved—Shall Be Saved

1. Hinders Spiritual Growth and Development—being led away from grace/return to legalism or the Law.
1. Removal of the offense of the Cross—for legalists, the choice to not be circumcised was an offense. For disciples of Christ to turn back to legalism was an offense to the Cross!
1. Anger—Paul is angry toward those who are leading the Galatians astray. He is so angry that he wishes they would actually castrate themselves as did some pagan priests in Asia Minor (an ugly scene). Paul is completely undone/upset by their leading the Galatians astray.

CHRISTIAN FREEDOM IS THE RIGHT AND PRIVILEGE OF EVERY BELIEVER!

CHRISTIANS ARE NOT TO USE THEIR FREEDOM AS A LICENSE TO SIN.

THE USE OF OUR LIBERTY IN CHRIST IS NOT TO BE USED FOR SELFISHNESS.
THE TRUE OBJECTIVE OF OUR FREEDOM IS LOVE.

Leviticus 19:18 NKJV

“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”

Christians are servants/slaves commissioned to love one another.

Matthew 22:37-39 NKJV

“Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

RESULTS OF LEGALISTS BEING PRESENT

1. Division—biting and devouring each other.
1. Church and community on verge of destruction
1. Legalism (lacking compassion) tends to treat people harshly and leads to division.

FREEDOM TO LIVE AND LOVE

GALATIANS 5:16-18 NKJV

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

NLT

“So, I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. 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. But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.”

Galatians 5:16-18

Possible through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit!!!

“Release from the Law and the power to love are the results of God’s working in us by His Holy Spirit.”

The law was powerless to help a Christian overcome sins.

Our sin nature continually pulls us away from God.

The Holy Spirit is the answer to this inward conflict.

Victory comes in walking IN THE SPIRIT. This requires dependence on and obedience to the Holy Spirit. In doing so, we will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

On this side of heaven, even Christian's will always experience this inner conflict between spirit and flesh!

Victory is the result of yielding to the Spirit. Salvation and Sanctification are brought about by God's Spirit working through faith.

THE SPIRIT'S POWER

Galatians 5:16-18 NLT

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1. Inward Conflict

1. Spirit-directed—NO obligation to the Law

RESULTS OF THE SINFUL NATURE

Galatians 5:21b— “anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Galatians 5:22-23 NLT

“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!”

FOLLOW THE SPIRIT’S LEADING

Crucified with Christ—become new people—died to self.

2Corinthians 5:17-18 NKJV

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,”

DIED TO THEIR SINFUL NATURE AND TO THE LAW

PASSIONS AND DESIRES ARE CHANGED!

New Walk

New Attitude

New Person

Identified with Christ

Born Again

LIVE IN THE NEWNESS OF CHRIST—FREE!

Let’s PRAY!

