

# Grace's Freedom

## Galatians Chapter 5

Ch. 1-2 Experience with Grace

Ch. 3-4 Doctrine of Grace

Ch. 5-6 Application of Grace

Gal 5:1 **1) Freedom to Stand** vs 1-12 Stand in Confidence of Christ

It was for freedom that **Christ set us free**; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

- Chapter 5 and 6 is the practical application of Grace.
- The first application of Grace Paul gives us is to STAND FIRM!
- Stand Firm against legalism.
- Many people are looking for freedom. Freedom to do as they desire without any restrictions. This Freedom in Christ is a freedom from legalism. (a yoke of slavery)
- The word is "Set" not "will set" or is "setting". This has been done. It is a reality.

Gal 5:2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

Gal 5:3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.

- There were 613 laws. Dr. Henry Morris said that "to remember all these were burdensome, to keep them was impossible"

Gal 5:4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

- If an individual is seeking to be justified before God by performance of the law they have severed / departed from Christ and the victory over sin accomplished on the cross. Grace is not found in the law. Grace is found in the Cross of Christ.

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

Gal 5:7 You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?

Gal 5:8 This persuasion {did} not {come} from Him who calls you.

Gal 5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump {of dough.}

- This is the point. This issue of circumcision is not just another form of devotion or worship.
- A little bit of the leaven of a works righteousness, contaminates the entire concept of GRACE.

Gal 5:10 I have confidence in you in the Lord that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you will bear his judgment, whoever he is.

Gal 5:11 But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished.

- Paul is persecuted because of the offense of the cross. If he is preaching something else, the offense of the cross isn't there. The persecution would cease.
- It is offensive to man to tell them "YOU CANNOT DO IT" You need Jesus. You need the cross.

Gal 5:12 I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves.

- Paul is not gentle with those who would cause the saints to stumble.
- Neither was Jesus:
  - Matt 10:34-36 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. "For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS FATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN'S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD."
  - Mark 9:42 "And whosoever shall offend one of [these] little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea."

### Standing in Grace's Freedom.

- Cannot be pushed over into condemnation of not good enough
- Cannot be pulled down into slavery of earning God's acceptance
- Paul is telling us to stand in Grace's freedom and realize the power of Grace to not be pulled or pushed, but to stand strong

Illustration of Olympic Skater in first placed about to go out for third and final round. She is tense, nervous, straining to focus. But just before skating she is told that she already has won! Her point lead is so great that the second place couldn't catch her even with a perfect score. How will she skate? With freedom, confidence, and joy. So it is with our life in Christ. We can stand with freedom, confidence and joy.

This standing is great. But we don't just stand. We move, we interact, we live from circumstance to circumstance.

What about this freedom?

Won't it allow people to sin it up, do as they please and enter Heaven with a pass?

Gal 5:13

**2) Freedom to Walk** vs 13-18 Walk in the Spirit

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only {do} not {turn} your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

- Believer, you are called to this freedom. But Paul give a warning
- Believer, You and I are capable of using this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh.
  - The opportunity exists for each of us. Paul doesn't say it isn't real or done away with. It exists.
- To counter this opportunity lies in serving one another.
  - The flesh is selfish. It thinks of itself and how to satisfy and please itself. The best thing to do to resist yourself is to serve others

Gal 5:14

For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the {statement,} "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

- Paul has another word for those who want to keep the Law. Verse 3 He tells them if you was to justify yourself by the Law then you need to keep it entirely.
- Here he tells them it is easier than trying to remember and keep 613 laws. Just keep this one.
- LOVE (Love is filled with action. It is not just a passive feeling)
- Quoted Leviticus 19:18 Jesus used this with the rich young ruler Matthew 19:19
- Martin Luther said "*If you want to know how you ought to love your neighbor, ask yourself how much you love yourself. If you were to get into trouble or danger, you would be glad to have the love and help of all men. You do not need any book of instructions to teach you how to love your neighbor. All you have to do is to look into your own heart, and it will tell you how you ought to love your neighbor as yourself.*"

Gal 5:15

But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

- This is Paul's picture of the believer who lives selfishly. He is a beast who bites and devours.
- If you bite and devour others, they will bite back.
- So if you live like that a warning for you. You need to watch your back.
- In the context of legalism, Paul understands that legalism is competitive. It compares one to another, Grace compares one to Christ. Legalism compares one to another. This will devour.

Gal 5:16

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

- Here is a test. Do you have legalist tendencies? The test is how did you understand verse 16?
- The Legalist sees this as saying "Do not fulfill the lust of the flesh and you will walk in the Spirit."

Gal 5:17

For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

- As we walk our life out we are constantly presented with opportunities. When we move from circumstance to circumstance we are pressed by two opposing options.
- The flesh here is not skin and bones it isn't even a fallen nature (Romans 6:6 says it is crucified dead and gone) But it is our inner man (our spirit) that has been trained in rebellion..
- These two are in opposition to one another. (Focht) " *This is a military term. Contrary/in opposition. These two are entrenched against each other. Nether giving ground to the other.*"
- These two are more intense than the cartoon of a devil and an angel on your shoulders. This is our rebellion trained spirit and the Spirit of God warring for your soul. The cartoon implies you can make a third independent decision. This is not reality. You will decide to the follow fallen nature (the flesh) or you will decide follow to the Spirit.
  - Our third decision will be to have our cake and to eat it too. We try to have both.

People have asked in essence, how close can I come to sin and still be clean. (this is a question of a legalist)

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

- The Spirit will always lead you to exceed the Law. You will not be just fulfilling the minimum requirement of the Law. You will go beyond the letter. You will fulfill the Spirit of the Law.

#### THE LETTER

ONE: 'no other gods before Me.'

TWO: 'Do not make for yourself a carved image'

THREE: 'Do not use the name of the LORD in vain.'

FOUR: 'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.'

FIVE: 'Honor your father and your mother.'

SIX: 'You shall not murder.'

SEVEN: 'You shall not commit adultery.'

EIGHT: 'You shall not steal.'

NINE: 'Do not lie'

TEN: 'You shall not covet'

#### THE SPIRIT

There is only one God, one Sovereign, one Ruler

God's Spirit leads me. I yield to Him. I don't need to see to believe.

I treasure and will not allow God's name to be common. I will Exalt His Holy Name.

God asks for one day. I'll give him that and 6 others

I thank God for parental supervision and guidance. I am blessed of God to have their council and support.

I cherish Life. All life is valuable and is to be respected

Second only to Jesus Christ is my wife (spouse) God has provided (or will provide) me with a companion that no one else can come close to satisfying.

I have learned to be content and generous.

I rejoice in Truth.

What is mine is yours.

### 3) Freedom to Live vs 19-26 Live by the Spirit "How Does Your Garden Grow"

Gal 5:16-18 "But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the Law"

Verse 16 - The word "WALK" is Greek "*peripateo*" which means to move or travel by foot from one place to another.  
Verse 25 a different word is used for walk. We will look at that later.

A Very Good Question at this point is how do I know I am "Walking By The Spirit"?

Paul simply answers this question by contrasting the "Works of the Flesh" with the "Fruit of the Spirit".

Let's look at these and you can answer the question for yourself.

Gal 5:19 **Now the deeds of the flesh are evident,**

- These are EVIDENT, obvious. You can tell what they are. Don't make this harder than it is.
- These are works (deeds) of the flesh. These are not demons. By believing these are spirits that are upon man it removes personal responsibility. So the concept is tickling the ear of those who do not want to hear they are performing these deed and they will be held accountable.

**which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,**

Gal 5:20 **idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,**

Gal 5:21 **envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these,**

- Sensual Sins
  - **adultery** (in KJV- omitted in other manuscripts considered included in fornication)
  - **immorality** (sexual) fornication, adultery, prostitution
  - **impurity** uncleanness, pornography
  - **sensuality** lasciviousness, sexual innuendo, provocative attention through sexual appeal
- Religious Sins
  - **idolatry** worshipping anything other than God
  - **sorcery** witchcraft, the Greek word is *pharmakeia*, altered state through drug use
- Social Sins
  - **enmities** hatred
  - **strife** variance, to be contrary
  - **jealousy** emulations, envious rivalry
  - **outbursts of anger** wrath
  - **disputes** strife, to argue with irritating persistence
  - **dissensions** seditions, to sow discord
  - **factions** heresies, to create contentions for rebellion sake
  - **envying**
  - **murders** (in KJV - omitted in other manuscripts considered included in others like hatred)
- Personal Sins
  - **drunkenness**
  - **carousing** revellings, to drink excessive, partying
  - **and such like** there are many more but Paul needs to stop at some time.

Paul is speaking about Grace. These things are not part of the life that is changed by GRACE.  
2 Corinthians 13:5 "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!"

**of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

- Paul warns them of that which he has previously warned them. Two times he has warned them. It must be important. Paul wasn't shy about telling people how they ought to behave.
- Those who PRACTICE such things - "Practice" Greek "*prasso*" means to exercise, to be busy with, to perform. Greek has different layers that affect meaning (tense, mood)  
Tense: Present (occurring right now) (exercising, performing)

- Those who are currently fulfilling the deeds of the flesh continually, **WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**
  - Verse 17 - These works of the flesh are warring against the Spirit. And the Spirit is warring against the flesh. The war is not just an interesting theological concept. The eternal destiny of a man's soul is in the balance. The eternal destiny of your soul is in the balance.

## Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit

- In contrast to the WORKS of the flesh, here we see the FRUIT of the Spirit.
  - Works are what you do. Fruit are produced by the Spirit.
  - They are produced by abiding
  - John 15:1-8 "*I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every {branch} that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither {can} you unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned."*
- This is the FRUIT. It isn't the GIFTS of the Spirit.
  - This FRUIT is in a singular sense. "*It may be significant that the word fruit is singular; Paul is not speaking of a series of fruits that would be shared around, so that one believer has one, another another. Rather he is referring to a cluster, such that all the qualities are to be manifested in each believer.*" (Morris)

is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

## Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

- LOVE - (agape) C. S. Lewis, in his book *The Four Loves*, used *agape* to describe what he believed was the highest level of love known to humanity—a selfless love, a love that was passionately committed to the well-being of the other.
  - 1 Corinthians 13 What it is and What it is not.
  - 1 John 4:8 "*God is Love*"
  - John 3:16 "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life*"
- JOY - (chara) D. Miall Edwards, speaks of joy that Christian joy is no mere gaiety that knows no gloom, but is the result of the triumph of faith over adverse and trying circumstances, which, instead of hindering, actually enhance it
  - John 15:11 "*These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and [that] your joy might be full.*"
  - John 17:13 "*But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves*"
  - Hebrews 12:2 "*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God*"
- PEACE - (eirene) You have seen the bumper sticker

**NO JESUS, NO PEACE**  
**Know Jesus, Know Peace**

True peace is a calm assurance coupled with a quiet joy that God has your life under control and that He is continuously yet mysteriously working to accomplish His purpose.

- John 14:27 "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid*"
- John 16:33 "*I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*"
- John 20:21 "*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you*"
- Philippians 4:6-7 "*Do not be anxious for anything but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*"

- PATIENCE - longsuffering (makrothymia) means literally, "long of nose" (or "breathing") and in the Septuagint uses the word 'erekh' which means "long of mind or soul" (regarded as the seat of the emotions), opposed to shortness of mind or soul, irascibility, impatience, intolerance.
  - 2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
  - Romans 15:5 "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:"
- KINDNESS - gentleness (chrestotes) signifies not merely goodness as a quality, rather it is goodness in action, goodness expressing itself in deeds; yet not goodness expressing itself in indignation against sin, for it is contrasted with severity in Rom 11:22, but in grace and tenderness and compassion.
  - Titus 3:4-6 "But when the kindness of God our Savior and {His} love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior"
  - Ephesians 4:22 "And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."
- GOODNESS - (agathosyne) that which, being "good" in its character or constitution, (morally honorable) is beneficial in its effect.
  - Exodus 33:19 "I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy."
  - Mark 10:18 "And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone." Jesus was using the back door to tell this man He was God.
  - Psalm 33:5 "He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD."
- FAITHFULNESS - faith (pistis) Caspar Wistar Hodge says faithfulness is one of the characteristics of God's ethical nature. It denotes the firmness or constancy of God in His relations with men, especially with His people. It is, accordingly, one aspect of God's truth and of His unchangeableness.
  - Psalm 100:5 "For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations."
  - Matthew 24:45-46 "Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes."
  - 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness ."
- GENTLENESS - meekness (praotes) In Notes on Galatians, by Hogg and Vine, says, it is an inwrought grace of the soul; and the exercises of it are first and chiefly towards God. It is that temper of spirit in which we accept His dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting...The meaning of *prautes* "is not readily expressed in English, for the terms meekness, mildness, commonly used, suggest weakness and pusillanimity to a greater or less extent, whereas *prautes* does nothing of the kind. Nevertheless, it is difficult to find a rendering less open to objection than 'meekness'; 'gentleness' has been suggested, but as *prautes* describes a condition of mind and heart, and as 'gentleness' is appropriate rather to actions, this word is no better than that used in both English Versions. It must be clearly understood, therefore, that the meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power. The common assumption is that when a man is meek it is because he cannot help himself; but the Lord was 'meek' because he had the infinite resources of God at His command.
  - Titus 3:2 "malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men."
  - 2 Timothy 2:24-25 "The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth"
  - 1 Peter 3:15 "sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always {being} ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence"
  - James 3:13+17 "Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom. . . . But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy"

- SELF-CONTROL - temperance (egkrateia) the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions
  - Jesus in **Matthew 9:10-12** ate with sinners and tax collectors Yet scripture teaches us that **Hebrews 4:15** "*For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as {we are, yet} without sin.*"
- There is no law against bearing the FRUIT of the Spirit. Cannot get arrested for being patient.
- The FRUIT of the Spirit is the evidence of being a Christian. IT IS EVIDENT (obvious) Paul says in verse 19. Is it evident in your life?

**Gal 5:24** Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

- Notice this is something the Believer does.
- **Matthew 16:24** "*Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."*
- Crucifixion is tough, painful, and to do this to yourself it requires a determined decision.

**Gal 5:25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

- The word WALK here is different than the one Paul uses in verse 16
- Here the word is "*stoicheo*". This conveys the meaning of "to be in line with" or one step in front of another"
- We are to be in step with (follow) the Spirit. Like a troop of soldiers marching in step to the cadence of the Holy Spirit.

**Gal 5:26** Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another.

- A Christian is not in competition with other Christians.

You are before a mountain. Grace tells you to go over the mountain.

- 1) Some think grace is a balloon ride. You hop in and rise above the rocks, trees, obstacles and get over the mountain.
- 2) The truth – Grace is a walk. You put one foot in front of the other and start out.

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