**Walk in the Spirit**

*Galatians 5*

**Introduction**

1. There is much confusion today regarding spiritual life in Christ. What does it mean to live a spiritual life? What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?
2. Paul dealt with confusion and error regarding spiritual life in Christ.
3. In **Galatians 5**, Paul dealt with serious issues facing the brethren at that time which are very much relevant today.
4. We would do well to dispel the confusion concerning spiritual life in Christ which exists today by simply heeding the Spirit’s words through the pen of Paul.
5. The Liberty of Christ
6. Stand Fast in Liberty
   1. **5:7-12** – false teachers persuading them to turn back to the Old Law.
   2. ***“It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.” (NASB)***
   3. ***“bondage” (v. 1) – “circumcised” (v. 2) – “the whole law” (v. 3)***
   4. ***“yoke of bondage” (v. 1)*** is the law of Moses – but why was it a yoke of bondage?
      1. Not because it was a law – **(v. 13b-14)** – manifests positive estimation of the law of Moses which has continuing principles in the gospel; **Galatians 6:2** – law of Christ.
      2. False notion – law and grace are antithetical – **Titus 2:11-12; James 1:25 – there is a law with provisions of grace.**
   5. ***“Stand fast THEREFORE” (5:1)*** – points back to chapter 4:
      1. Allegory using Abraham’s two sons from Hagar, a bondwoman, and Sarah, a freewoman.
      2. **4:24-25** – symbolic – one represents the Old Covenant given on Mount Sinai – ***“gives birth to bondage”***
      3. **4:26-27** – other represents the New Covenant of freedom – gives birth to freedom.
         1. **(v. 27)** – **Isaiah 54:1** – directly following 4th Servant song (**Isaiah 53)** – the rejoicing and peace are associated with the children to be born of the promise as a result from the blessings of the atonement of the Messiah.
            1. **Isaiah 53:10-11** – see spiritual posterity (seed, the redeemed), justify many.
         2. ***“the liberty by which Christ has made us free” (5:1)***
   6. The Law of Moses gives birth to bondage because it cannot atone for sin – **3:10-14** – under a curse when the Law is not kept, Christ became curse for us.
   7. If you turn to the Law of Moses for standing with God – **5:2-4** – estranged from Christ, the solution to the sin problem, no grace.
   8. **NOT saying – don’t bother with trying to live righteously because that is simply unredeemed legalism.**
      1. **5:7 – why would he admonish them like this if he was making this point?**
   9. **RATHER – don’t seek righteousness by the Law of Moses, but through faithfulness in the gospel – 5:5-6 – *“the law of Christ” (6:2)*.**
      1. Not turning to bondage when trying to keep the law that provides atonement for sin – the law that provides grace.
7. Do Not Use Liberty as an Opportunity for the Flesh
   1. A false report of Paul’s preaching – **Romans 3:8; 6:1** – the false notion that the gospel’s requirement to die to the Law of Moses would lead to spiritual anarchy, all in the name of being saved by grace.
      1. This may have been what Paul was dealing with in Galatians.
      2. He may have simply been addressing a few who did not have a sound understanding of the gospel in contrast to the Law of Moses.
   2. **5:13** – the liberty is not from any obligation whatsoever, but ultimately a liberation from sin and death (**cf. Romans 8:1-2).**
      1. Those who suggest we should not be concerned with “doing right” because we are under grace are a product of the problem Paul is addressing.
      2. Christ did not do all for us so that we did not have to worry about doing it, but atoned for our sin so we could be set free to live for righteousness – ***“but through love serve one another”***
         1. Specifically, this was Paul’s point for the Jew in regard to the Law of Moses.
         2. They died to that law, not to live as they please, but to be free to be joined to Christ, and bear fruit to God – **Romans 7:4**
      3. **(vv. 15, 26)** – in their misunderstanding of the gospel they were living selfishly to the detriment of their brethren.
   3. **5:14** – it is telling that after having just made the powerful point that they should not turn back to the Law of Moses that Paul would quote from it to exhort the brethren to behave accordingly.
      1. Quotation of **Leviticus 19:18**
      2. How does **verse 13b-14** harmonize with **verse 4**?
      3. Opposition, or those who misunderstand, may be inclined to say that Paul’s doctrine about the Law of Moses being obsolete is a rejection of its instruction, especially of a moral sort – **if we are not to follow the law, won’t there be unbridled lust leading to immorality?**
      4. **(v. 16) – the Spirit’s revelation of the gospel carries forth, and reinstates and emphasizes by the authority of Christ, the most fundamental commands found in the law – cf. James 2:8-13**
      5. ***Some ask, “Why do we go to the Old Law to show that some things are required, or wrong?”*** – We don’t, the law of Christ is our standard, but there are many things which are labeled sin in the Old Law which are also labeled such in the New, as well as many positive commands. (**cf. 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11; Romans 15:4**)
   4. The fact of Christ’s sacrifice, and the Spirit’s revelation of the gospel, does not promote a libertinistic life, but demands a life which abstains from sin, and pursues righteousness in the instruction of the Spirit – **(vv. 24-25)** – a life of walking in the Spirit.
8. Walk in the Spirit
9. A Contrast of Source
   1. The Spirit vs. the Flesh
      1. **Spirit** – ***“led by the Spirit” (v. 18)*** – objective.
         1. **Galatians 3:1-5** – relationship with the Holy Spirit through the gospel.
            1. **(5:1, 16)** – ***“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthians 3:17***).
            2. **(v. 2)** – fellowship with the Spirit – **cf. Hebrews 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14**
            3. **(v. 3)** – spiritual maturity through following the Spirit.
            4. **(v. 5)** – spiritual gifts to reveal the word.
         2. Objective, divine direction – **Ephesians 5:17-18; 6:17; Colossians 3:16** – through the word of God.
         3. **(v. 25)** – if our fellowship with God, our eternal life is according to the HS, then we ought not live in the Law of Moses **(v. 18),** or live according to the flesh, but according to the HS’s instruction.
      2. **Flesh** – ***“the things that you wish” (v. 17)*** – subjective.
         1. **Ephesians 2:3** – left to self and carrying out any carnal desire/longing we may have.
         2. **Romans 8:3** – ***“sinful flesh”*** – i.e. not inherently, but if left to itself (without proper direction), the passions and longings will lead to sin. (**cf. Romans 7:7-8** – natural appeal to things, but the law shows where that is covetousness)
   2. Works vs. Fruit
      1. **Works** – used negatively in reference to efforts made for justification according to the law of Moses – **Galatians 2:16; 3:12**
         1. **Romans 4:4** – debt.
         2. **A product of my own** – which is why it is impossible to be justified in this way.
         3. **Works of the flesh** (**v. 19**) – these are products of our own making – when we are in control and follow our own will.
      2. **Fruit** – the product of something foreign, or outside, being sown into something (soil) – of the Spirit.
         1. **James 1:18, 21** – the instrument from which we are produced is the word of truth – implanted (outside put inside).
         2. **Fruit of the Spirit** (**v. 22**) – an outside source has planted something independent of ourselves within our hearts and it has produced fruit within us.
            1. **I.e. the product is not a reflection of our own work, but of our yielding to another. (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:10)**
            2. **Galatians 2:20** – not us, but Christ.
10. A Contrast of Desire
    1. **5:17, 24-25** – left to ourselves our desires run contrary to the desires of God (**cf. Jeremiah 10:23**).
    2. To ***“walk in the Spirit”*** is to deny our will and obey the will of Christ revealed in the word of God – **cf. Matthew 26:39** – this produces SPECIFIC fruit (**vv. 22-23**).
11. Works of the Flesh
    1. ***“the works of the flesh are evident”***
       1. Their nature of being evident or obvious closely corresponds to their subjective source – they ultimately serve no higher purpose than self.
       2. They are commonplace in a sin ridden world – ironically, they are evident because they blend in with what is of the world, rather than being positively exceptional.
       3. NOTE: These represent a multitude of problems which even the world can identify, but which will not be rectified due to the rule of self-will – the flesh.
    2. ***“And the like”*** – this is not meant to be an exhaustive list – perhaps the Spirit revealed what was particularly problematic in Galatia.
    3. **Sexual** – (Adultery), Fornication, Uncleanness, Lewdness
       1. (**Adultery** – not found in better/older mss) – illicit sexual intercourse with one who is not one’s spouse. (Extra-marital)
       2. **Fornication** – all illicit sexual intercourse. (Premarital, extramarital, homosexual, bestiality, polygamy, etc.)
       3. **Uncleanness** – (moral) impurity – a precurser to lewdness and fornication. (thoughts, language, company, entertainment, etc. – anything leading up to and including fornication.)
       4. **Lewdness** – unbridled lust, licentiousness. (Unchaste handling of males and females, immodesty, etc.)
    4. **Religious** – Idolatry, Sorcery
       1. **Idolatry** – image worship, worship of false gods. (**cf. Colossians. 3:5** – inclusive of all things placed above God)
          1. **Inclusive false religions, including denominations – if you claim to serve Christ, but you change Him, you have merely created a false god.**
       2. **Sorcery** – *pharmakeia* – connected with idolatry, fraudulent activity claimed to be power from a false god.
          1. Administration of drugs to enhance the chances of convincing others.
          2. **Would include any efforts to produce insobriety (physical or mental) and increase the chances of duping others. (Carnal appeal in false religion – social gospel)**
    5. **Relational** – Hatred, Contentions, Jealousies, Outbursts of Wrath
       1. **Hatred** – inward hostility/animosity toward another.
       2. **Contentions** – quarrel, strife, fighting.
       3. **Jealousies** – *zēlos* – negative zeal – rather than having a zealous, pure pursuit of something needed or wanted, a jealous and bitter resentment of another who has it.
       4. **Outbursts of Wrath** – “passion, angry, heat, anger forthwith boiling up and soon subsiding again” (THAYER)
          1. **Outburst – meaning, outward and visible – the anger lashes out through yelling, violence, etc.**
          2. **Usually a person throws such a fit of anger, and calms afterward.**
    6. **Divisive** – Selfish Ambitions, Dissensions, Heresies, Envy, (Murders)
       1. **Selfish Ambitions** – self-seeking, only being concerned with self, and acting especially on that basis.
       2. **Dissensions** – disunity, division.
       3. **Heresies** – groups which hold to distinct positions, etc. (Stronger, and more formal than “dissensions.”)
       4. **Envy** – similar to “jealousies,” but purely negative where zēlos could be positive in a respective context.
          1. The cause of such dissensions and heresies.
       5. (**Murders** – not found in better/older mss) – unlawful taking of life.
    7. **Intoxication** – Drunkenness, Revelries
       1. **Drunkenness** – intoxication.
       2. **Revelries** – the concomitant and consequence of drunkenness.
          1. Modern “partying.”
          2. Inhibitions lowered leading to loud and loose behavior which in normal circumstances would be frowned upon.
    8. **Result (v. 21b)** – not inherit kingdom.
       1. **Galatians 6:7-8** – reap corruption.
12. Fruit of the Spirit
    1. ***“the FRUIT of the Spirit”***
       1. “works” of the flesh are many, and assorted – they may have relation to one another, but such is one of chaos and destruction.
          1. One such activity most likely will lead to another greater…
          2. …but it only takes one to cause chaos eternal destruction.
       2. **“fruit” is singular** – these are not fruitS that one may or may not possess who follows the Spirit.
          1. **They are in unity, and inseparable – all of them together are a product of the Spirit’s teaching.**
          2. Where one is as a product of the Spirit, the others will be, all working together for the common purpose of glorifying God.
    2. **Core** – Love, Joy, Peace
       1. **The first three represent an inner core of the person transformed by the Spirit’s revelation – the others are ultimately effects of this inner trio.**
       2. **Love** – **cf. 1 John 4:8** – “the love of intelligent comprehension united with corresponding blessed purpose.” (Lenski)
          1. Esteems value in its object and acts in the objects best interest.
          2. **Fountainhead of all Christian virtues** – especially placed in this list.
       3. **Joy** – an inner wellness and cheerfulness independent of outward circumstance, seated in the blessedness of unalterable spiritual reality – ultimately the relationship with our Lord (**cf. Philippians 4:4)**
       4. **Peace** – inner tranquility and contentment stemming from our relationship with God in Christ.
    3. **Relational effect** – Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness
       1. **Longsuffering** – endurance and patience in situations which would provoke. (Love being the driving force.)
       2. **Kindness** – a mild disposition aimed toward being useful/helpful to others.
       3. **Goodness** – where kindness includes the idea of mildness, goodness aims at what is virtuous or right according to God’s standard in general.
    4. **Relational effect** – Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control
       1. **Faithfulness** – fidelity, integrity, trustworthiness, reliability.
       2. **Gentleness** – the effect of true humility which yields control entirely to God, and therefore will act appropriately toward others without compromising such a personal surrender to God. (**6:1)**
       3. **Self-control** – especially in relation to others – my activity toward others is controlled and will not be allowed to cause offense in others.
    5. **Result** (**v. 23b**) – antithetically parallel to **verse 21** – since no law is against such virtues, those who practice them will stand justified when judged by the law.
       1. **Galatians 6:7-8** – reap everlasting life.
    6. ***“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” (v. 25)*** – does this describe you?

**Conclusion**

1. If we belong to Christ, we will be denying our flesh, and submitting entirely to the direction of the Holy Spirit in the word of God.
2. We cannot claim fellowship with Christ through the gospel the Spirit revealed if we are not living according to it.
3. Let us hold fast to our liberty in Christ by pursuing the service of God in the walk according to the Spirit.