

The General Electric Power Company Series

Galatians | Ephesians | Philipians | Colossians

Lesson #5 – Galatians 5

Main Idea

Galatians 5 is one of the greatest application chapters in the Bible. A dilemma that faces most Christians is the need to overcome patterns of sin and addiction. This challenge is not limited to Christians; however, Christians are the only ones who have the power of the Holy Spirit to bring about a true and lasting transformation. At the core of this subject is not so much the *how*, but the *why*. Our desire and ability to live a holy life should be rooted in our appreciation towards the Lord for what He has done for us. A holy life demonstrates to God that we value Him and that we understand and appreciate what He has done for us.

Once again Paul makes it very clear for us in answering the question – *how can I not sin and live a holy life?* In verse 16 of Galatians 5 Paul states: So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. As Paul continues this dialogue he helps us understand that the barometer of success is reflected in the often quoted, but rarely lived Fruit of the Spirit: **But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.** Fruit is a by-product of a healthy tree. When you and I walk with Christ and focus on sacrificially living for Him, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to bear fruit and overcome sin.

Outline for the Book of Galatians

Greetings & Introduction: Galatians 1:1-10

Part 1: Paul defends his apostolic ministry of the pure gospel. Galatians 1:11-2:21

Part 2: Paul defends the gospel of justification and salvation by grace and faith alone. Galatians 3:1-4:31

Part 3: Paul defends the freedom Christians have to love one another and live by the Spirit. Galatians 5:1-6:10

Concluding Remarks: Galatians 6:11-18

Questions for Consideration

1. Read verse 4. What is meant by the phrase, *you have fallen away from grace*? Consider your answer in the context of Ephesians 2:8-9.
2. Apparently some teachers were influencing the churches in Galatia in a negative manner as Paul comes down hard on them (i.e. verses 10 and 12). How important is it that you know, do, and communicate the right message? Was there a time in your life when you told someone something or influenced them incorrectly?
3. The second part of Galatians (verses 13-25) is one of the most powerful set of verses in the New Testament. Many consider the modern day church as *lukewarm* as reflected in Christ's words to the church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22). List some weaknesses observed in modern-day Christians and today's church.
4. List below the acts of sinful nature and Fruit of the Spirit attributes.

Acts of Sinful Nature

Fruit of the Spirit

5. In the above list associated with the sinful nature, what percentage can be related to sexual sin? In today's society this sin is rampant, within and outside of the church. Consider Paul's message on marriage in I Corinthians 7:1-7 and how marriage can be used to help combat today's lack of purity.
6. What does it mean to crucify the sinful nature? Does it mean that we no longer sin?
7. Take a personal inventory of your life today by considering the following.
 - a. As you look at your life, what is your greatest area of struggle?
 - b. Is this something that has been part of your life for quite some time?
 - c. What are some specific Spiritual disciplines you can invoke to rid this sin from your life?

Homework Read Galatians 6. How important is it to have a healthy view of oneself? What does Galatians 6 have to say on this?



Galatians 5 (New International Version, ©2010)

Freedom in Christ

¹ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴ You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

⁷ You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? ⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹ "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." ¹⁰ I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. ¹¹ Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹² As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

Life by the Spirit

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh^[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."^[b] ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever^[c] you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Footnotes:

- a. [Galatians 5:13](#) In contexts like this, the Greek word for *flesh* (*sarx*) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit; also in verses 16, 17, 19 and 24; and in 6:8.
- b. [Galatians 5:14](#) Lev. 19:18
- c. [Galatians 5:17](#) Or you do not do what

