

GALATIANS 5-6

In Defense of Spirit-led Liberty

STUDY AHEAD

Paul's message about GRACE caused some false teachers to assert that he was giving people 'a free ticket to sin.' On the contrary, Paul will argue that when a person 'receives Christ' he/she receives the gift of the indwelling Spirit of God, giving him/her the ability to walk in the power of the Spirit and, thus, to fulfill the principles of the Law.

1. Galatians 5:1-12 Paul reveals his true emotions here. Can you feel the weight of his passion for Christ? Note on 5:4. The words "severed from Christ" and "fallen from grace" do not refer to an individual "losing their salvation." Rather, Paul is warning the Galatian believers as a group that they are in danger of falling from the foundation (principle) of salvation by grace that he taught them. Yes, it is possible to be truly saved, to be a child of God, and yet to be led down paths of erroneous teaching.

2. Galatians 5:13-15. How does Paul summarize the intent of the entire O.T. Law? Paul is echoing what Jesus taught (see Matthew 22:34-40).

3. Galatians 5:16-26. On Galatians 5:17, read Romans 7:14-25 where Paul describes his personal struggle to overcome the flesh.

4. Galatians 5:19-23. Paul speaks of the "deeds" of the flesh in the plural; yet, he speaks of the "fruit" of the Spirit in the singular. Why do you think Paul lists 9 different qualities of the Spirit-led life, yet he calls them all the "fruit" (1) of the Spirit?

5. Galatians 6:1-5. Why does Paul say, "*Bear one another's burdens*" (6:2) and then immediately say, "*Each one shall bear his own load*" (6:5)? Can you do some study to find the difference between the words "burden" and "load" in these two verses.

6. Galatians 6:7-8. What does it mean to "sow to the Spirit" as opposed to "sowing to the flesh"? Compare Romans 8:1-17 where Paul mentions the Spirit 13 times (!) in a section teaching us how to live out the Christian life.

7. Galatians 6:11-18. Paul unveils the motives of the false teachers. What were their motives?