

# NEW TESTAMENT 3

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Paul's Letters - Week 4

# GENERAL OVERVIEW

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The Galatians are reminded that salvation in Christ comes by grace, through the Spirit, into the freedom of faith.

While legalism can lead to greater sin, Christian freedom is a life of Spiritual service marked by humble love of others.

# Before we begin...

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What does "freedom" mean to you? Why is it important?

What limits to freedom should we tolerate and which should we resist?

# Legalism is severance from Christ

Gal 5:1-12

- In Christ we have come to share in the blessing of Abraham. What is it? (Rom 4)
- Why is it important to guard against the "yoke of slavery"?
- How is "grace" contrasted with "law"? (2:21 and 3:18)
- What is the contrast between "you" (v4) and "we" (v5)?
- What is the character of those who are opposing Paul, in v7-12? How can he speak so strongly about these people?

# Freedom is service to God

Gal 5:13-26

- Note 5:6. What is the marker of Christian love? (v13; c.f. 3:2-5; 6:12-13)
- What would indulging "the flesh" indicate about the Galatians' love? (v13)
- What law binds the Christian believer? (v14; c.f. Rom 13:8-10)
- How does the Spirit help the believer to escape from the law? (v16-18; 22-23)
- What is the consequence of gratifying "the flesh"? (v21; c.f. Rom 8:12-14)
- Having died to the "flesh" with Christ, how should we live "by the Spirit"? (v24-25)

# The spiritual serve others

Gal 6:1-10

- "Biting and devouring" and "conceited, provoking and envying" are not acts of the Spirit. How do those in step with the Spirit respond to others' failure?
- What is the place of humble caution in this act of love? (v1, 3-4)
- What are the two ways to live in 6:7-10?
- How do the Ten Commandments rule in the life of the Christian?

Compare Deut 5:6-21; Rom 13:8-10; Gal 5:13-6:10.

# A Warning and a Blessing

Gal 6:11-18

Paul now takes the pen to reinforce the main points of his argument.

- What two things motivate the Judaizers? (v12)
- What demonstrates the failure of their position? (v13)
- What does Paul boast in? What marks his life? (v14; 17)
- How are believers "the new creation", in Gal 5-6? (c.f. 2 Cor 5:16-17)

Who are "the Israel of God"? What does Paul wish them, along with the church?

# Concluding

What words does Paul use in Galatians to describe his motives? Why is this significant?

What is the character of "the flesh" and that of "the Spirit" in Galatians?

How do you see "the fruit of the Spirit" in yourself? Where might you need to grow?

Read the articles on 'Holy Spirit', 'Love' and 'Sanctification' in the *New Bible Dictionary*  
How are we able to persevere in the battle with sin as Christians?