

Sunday
15th Oct.
2023

The Fruit of
the spirit
Part 1.
Galatians.5



GALATIANS 5 NIV

Freedom in Christ

How do I know and feel that am Free in Christ?

It's one thing to believe that you're free and another thing to know and feel free.

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. **Verse 2-4.**

1. I know that am free because am not controlled by the law?

- Paul had a problem on how the early church was handling freedom in Christ, he began his presentation by comparing two groups of people.

a) Those who live under the law and those who live under grace.

According to Paul, those who opt for justification by the works of the law, have fallen from grace, because it's impossible to have it both ways.

b) In other words, the effective operating power of God's grace becomes ineffective in the life of anyone who trusts in his or her own efforts for salvation.

c) Writing to Ephesians Paul confirms the same by saying that; “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

...10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:8-10 NIV).

d) In other words, our works should be the product of who we are in Christ.

2. I know I am free in Christ because I am not controlled by my own flesh or addictions.

a) Addiction is when I have a strong physical or psychological need or urge to do something or use something. It is a dependence on a substance or activity even if I know that its harmful to me and it can impact my daily life.

b) I have used the word addictions because some of the addictions are not necessarily sin. For example, shopping becomes an addiction when you buy things you don't need or want. Then you start feeling guilty, shameful or even despairing.

Paul adds other things that can hinder our freedom in Christ: **Verses 19-21**,
“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.”

3. I know I am free in Christ because I am controlled by the Holy spirit.

Verse 16: “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.”

a) How do I know that I am controlled by the Holy spirit?

b) The fruit will show, **verse 22-23**; ...

“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.

c) Learning to **‘walk in the Spirit’** will bring a gradual movement from mental rules and disciplines to an obedience rooted in the heart’s judgements and convictions.

d) The person who is controlled by the Spirit will do what is right freely, and not by compulsion of the law. Thus, he is not under the law's bondage and condemnation.

- Do you feel free in Christ?
- Are there things that are holding you back or controlling you? Prov. 3:5-8
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil. 8 This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. (Proverbs 3: 5-8)