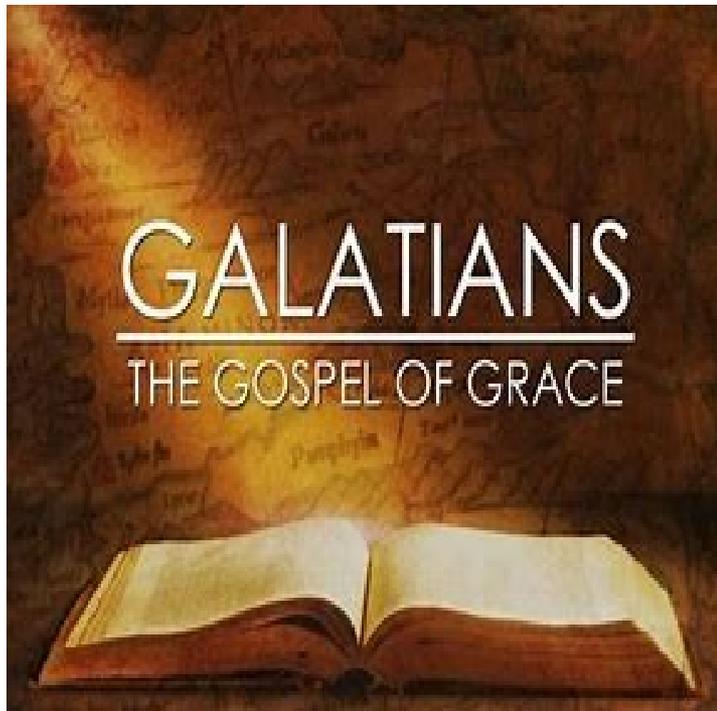




Gal 5:16 Walk by the Spirit



Gal 5:13 For you were **called to freedom**, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Summary of points from last week



Paul told us the following in verses 13 to 15:

- Every believer is called to freedom in Christ.
- Stop using your liberty in Christ as a base of operations for the flesh.
- We are to serve as slaves to one another through Christ's love.
- We are to love those who “are near” in our sphere of influence.
- We are to love one another even as Christ has loved us.
- Stop biting and devouring one another or you may be consumed by one another.

Final Thoughts on Gal 5:13-15



The only way a believer can manifest love toward others is when Christ is the object of our heart and we walk in God's grace and not under law:*

- **under grace** Christ's life is manifested and characterized by the fruit of the Spirit
- **under Law** self is manifested and characterized by biting, devouring and consuming

Outline*



The Dynamic of the Christian Life 5:13-26

1. Our Christian Liberty [Freedom] 5:13-15
 - a. Possession/Abuse/ Motivation of Liberty 5:13
 - b. Freedom Expression/Warning 5:14-15
2. Our Christian Spirituality 5:16-26
 - a. The Walk 5:16-18
 - :16a The Command - walk
 - :16b The Relationship - by the Spirit
 - :16c The Promise - will not carry out the desire of

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

please

:18 The Summary - being led by the Spirit - not

* adapted from McCalley

Galatians 5:16 Introduction



The **metaphor of walking** is one of the most important used by Paul and the other New Testament writers.

It is used to express the whole round of activities of the Christian life.

It graciously tells us how to conduct our Christian life.

It is used specifically of things a believer **should do** and things that a believer **should not do**.

It is used here in Galatians to counteract the false teaching and actions of the Judaizers.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.



But I say – *lit*: this I say then = here's how*

• Here is how you live the Christian life so that you will not fall into the issues presented in verses 13 thru 15.

other usages:

Rom 10:18a But I say, surely they have never heard, have they? Indeed they have.

Rom 10:19a But I say, surely Israel did not know, did they?

1 Cor 7:8 But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I.

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.



(you) **walk by the Spirit**

walk - *peripateō* – *lit*: to walk about; figuratively, signifying the whole round of the activities of the individual life (present, imperative, active)

• continuous action in the present – our moment by moment living in Christ

by the Spirit

or by means of the Spirit

or through the instrumentality of the Spirit (Wuest)

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.



• Col 2:6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him**,

How did you receive Him?

- You received Christ Jesus by faith
- You responded to the convicting ministry of the Holy Spirit
- John 16:8 And He, when He comes, **will convict** the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.
- So now [as a believer] **you walk in Him by** faith
- By faith you responded to the **leading** of the Holy Spirit
- 2 Cor 3:18 [we all] beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, **just as from the Lord, the Spirit.**

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.



A few of many exhortations using the idea of walking:

The Christian is to:

walk in newness of life, Rom. 6:4,

walk after the Spirit, Rom. 8:4,

walk in honesty, Rom. 13:13,

walk by faith, 2 Cor. 5:7,

walk in good works, Eph. 2:10,

walk in love, Eph. 5:2,

walk in wisdom, Col. 4:5,

walk in truth, 2 John 1:4

Verses about the Holy Spirit and the believer -1



John 14:16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that He may be with you forever; ¹⁷ that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

- The Holy Spirit is **another of the same kind** as Christ
- Holy Spirit is with you forever
- You **know** [*ginosko*] Him because:
 - He **abides** [*meno*] with you
 - He will be **in** you.

John 14:26 But **the Helper, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

- He will be sent in Christ's name
- He will teach you all things,
- He will bring to your remembrance **all that I said to you.**

Verses about the Holy Spirit and the believer – 2



John 16:13 But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, He will **guide** you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

- He will guide [**lead**] **you** [**believer**] into all the truth
- He will not speak from Himself as a source
- Whatever He hears, He will speak
- He will disclose to **you** what is to come
- He shall glorify me [Christ] **because**:
- He shall take out from that which pertains to me [Christ]
 - He will make **it** known to **you**.
- All things that the Father has are Mine [Christ]
- He **takes of Mine** [Christ] and will disclose it to **you** [believer]

How do we walk by the Spirit?*



Overview:

- The Holy Spirit is the only one that can **lead** us
- God the Father gives Him that responsibility
- Therefore we are to be depending on His leading
- So walking by the Spirit is walking by faith and depending on the **leading** of the Holy Spirit in the things of Christ and His Word

Important points:

- Walking by the Spirit is not baptism, indwelling, filling, etc.
- Walking by the Spirit is not self occupation nor occupation with the Holy Spirit
- Walking by the Spirit **is** occupation with the glorified Lord Jesus Christ
- It** [walking by the Spirit] **is**: beholding Him, depending upon Him, Christ being our all in all

What is the connection between the Holy Spirit **leading** a believer and the believer **walking** by the Holy Spirit?*



- Christ tells us that it is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to lead us (i.e. **He will guide you into all the truth**)
- Like a parent lovingly leading a child
- He is leading via the Word of God
- Christ sent the Holy Spirit to indwell us so He could lead us in the person of Christ
- Paul tells us in verse 16 that we are to walk by the Spirit (i.e. **by means of the Spirit**)
- So we are to be depending on the Holy Spirit leading us as we walk by the Spirit

* Hal Molloy



¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

and you will not carry out

lit: you will not, will not (double negative)

or you cannot, you will never, never (Merryman)

John 6:37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.

carry out - *teleō* – to bring to completion

put it together:

- You cannot, you will never, never bring to completion the desire of the flesh
- It's an impossibility!

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.



the desire of the flesh (the sinful nature)

desire - *epithymia* - a desire, craving, longing, mostly of evil desires, frequently translated “lust”

observations:*

- Paul is not saying you will have no desire of the flesh
- Paul is saying these desires of the flesh will not be brought to completion as we walk by the Spirit
- The desire of the flesh will be with us until we go home to be with the Lord

* adapted McCalley

Final Thoughts*



- If we are walking by the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus then **it is impossible** to fulfill the evil desires, the impulses and passions of the flesh.
- It is impossible because **the flesh** power over the believer is broken [**cut loose****] and we need not obey it.
- There is nothing in the flesh worth holding on to.
- As we walk by faith we allow the Holy Spirit to hold **the flesh** in the place of death [separation] on the cross.
- And the Holy Spirit [who is our living link with Christ] forms in us and manifests the glory of Christ in us.
- The Lord's desire for us is to walk by the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. This is to be our moment by moment desire and experience.

** taken offline

* adapted from Hal Molloy 16