

THE BEHAVIOR OF A BELIEVER
Galatians 5:1-26

Introduction

Galatians 3-4 told us about the doctrine of justification by faith and how God gives us eternal life. Galatians 5-6 will tell us how justification ought to change a believer so that he lives a godly life. A believer's behavior should be radically changed by the work of the Holy Spirit in his life. Paul says to all believers, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh" (Gal 5:16).

Aim of the Lesson

Challenge the believer to change his behavior by walking in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Outline of the Lesson (Use the Study Notes to develop the lesson outline as the Spirit leads you.)

A. Liberty in Christ (5:1-15)**1. Liberty Lost through Legalism (5:1-12)**

How is the life of a Christian different than the life of one under the law? (1) The Christian is free; the other is in bondage to the laws of his religion

When did God command circumcision to be practiced and for what purpose? (Gen 17:1ff)

When Abraham was 99 so that he could identify with God's covenant

How does Paul treat circumcision (the basis for infant baptism)? (2-4) it was part of the Law

What has replaced circumcision (5-6)? Faith

Who does Paul blame for teaching the believers the leaven of false doctrine? (7-10) Jews

How does Paul prove that he did not preach circumcision? (11) Suffered persecution from Jews

What did Paul desire for those who taught circumcision? (12) That they be cut off

We must live by faith in Christ and shun all forms of legalism that would sever us from Him.

2. Liberty Abused through License (5:13-15)

How can liberty be abused? (13, 15) Use liberty for our benefit, even though it may hurt others

How should liberty be used? (13-14) Use liberty to help others by our love and good deeds

We must live a sacrificial life by loving others, not a selfish life by loving ourselves.

B. Life by the Spirit (5:16-26)**1. Flesh Opposed to the Spirit (5:16-18)**

How can a believer have victory over the sins of the flesh? (16) Depend on the power of the Spirit

What happens to the believer that tries to live by the flesh and by the Spirit? (17) He is unstable and has no power for victory

Why can a believer have victory over sin when he is led of the Spirit? (18) He is not under Law

We must determine to walk in the Spirit so we can have victory over the flesh.

2. Works of the Flesh (5:19-21)

Classify the works of the flesh under these headings: (a) sexual impurity; (b) false religious activity; (c) ungodly temperament; (d) alcoholic excesses

What is the warning to those who practice the sins of the flesh? (21) They are not saved

We must determine not to walk in the sins of the flesh.

3. Fruit of the Spirit (5:22-24)

How would you define the various aspects of the fruit of the Spirit? (22-23)

How does a believer get victory over the deeds of the flesh? (24) Crucify the flesh by dying with Christ; then live by the power of His resurrection.

We must crucify the deeds of the flesh and live by the power of Christ.

4. Summary Thoughts (5:25-26)

What is the difference between living in the Spirit and walking in the Spirit? (25) "Living" refers to a person's life with God in salvation; "walking" refers to his life in fellowship with God after salvation

What kind of a life will enhance a believer's testimony? (26) A gracious, gentle and generous life.

We must determine to let the Spirit take control of us.

THE BELIEVER IS BLESSED WHEN THE SPIRIT CONTROLS HIS BEHAVIOR