

Home Group Notes 9

Galatians 5:7-26 The fruit of freedom

Introduction

The response to grace is gratitude. The gift of salvation comes with the gift of the Holy Spirit, who helps us in the fight to resist sinful indulgence and whose fruit are good character and good works. This is how Christians fight and grow.

1. Are you easily sidetracked?
Are you sometimes led off the rails?
Are you easily influenced or tempted?
2. **Read 5vv.7-12** What does Paul say about those who trip, persuade, leaven, unsettle and confuse?

	yes	no
they prevent obedience of truth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
they are on the Lord's side	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
they have a large influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
they will get away with it	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
they ought to castrate themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How does preaching circumcision remove the offence of the cross? Can you see why Paul suggests it might be good if the knife slipped?
4. Paul has warned these Christians not to give up their freedom by returning to the slavery of trying to earn their salvation. But he also tells them not to abuse their freedom. In vv.13-14, what should they use their gospel freedom to do?

5. How (do you think) does the gospel free us to truly love God and others?
How (do you think) does the gospel motivate us to truly love God and others?

6. **Read 5vv.16-26**

- What is going on inside every Christian (16-17)?
7. What is encouraging about this truth and what is challenging?
 8. Pick two works of the sinful nature (19-21) and think how they are result of 'over-desires' (all-consuming desires or longings) which cause us to be like this? How will you preach the gospel of grace to yourself to undermine 'over-desires'?
 9. Pick two aspects of the fruit of the Spirit (22-23) How are these things the products of believing the gospel? How are they aspects of serving others in love?
 10. Which of the segments of this fruit do you particularly need to ask God to grow in you through his Spirit? How will dwelling on the truths of the gospel help produce this fruit in you?

Prayer Points

Thank God for reminders to live out gospel freedom
Pray that those who preach another 'gospel' will hurt themselves rather than others
Thank God for the good fruit which comes from gospel freedom
Pray for the gospel to transform people and society
Pray for our servicemen and women, abroad and at home
Pray for Philip Burrows, just back from Afghanistan
Pray for those suffering pain, loss and trouble