

# CHRISTIAN FREEDOM BIBLE STUDY

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WWW.GRANTCHAPELWICHITA.ORG    REV. DR. V. GORDON GLENN III, PASTOR

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## Part 1: THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

*Galatians 5:13-21*

**Opening Question:** *What does it mean to be “free in Christ Jesus?”*

**Lesson Background:** Paul, the undisputed author of the letter to the Galatians, writes between two distinct times. He writes *after* Jesus has ascended back to sit “at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,” and *before* He returns “to judge the quick and the dead.” Paul writes to give instruction as to how to live (or “walk”) between these two times. “The problem that arose in Galatian was a familiar one in the first century church, and it remains a problem in the church today. Are we truly saved by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, or is something more necessary on our part?”

“Paul’s letter... establishes the purity of the Good News – that salvation is available to all purely by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and not by observing the law.” (*NLT Study Bible*) In fact, the header over the fifth chapter is thus: *Freedom in Christ*. **Read Galatians 5:13-21.**

### Questions to guide our discussion:

1. How does verse 13 (and vs. 6) address those who think their freedom in Christ allows them to do anything they want? How do they challenge you?
2. What two things are in conflict with each other in verse 17? How do you resolve that conflict?
3. What makes the “works of the flesh” (vv. 19-21) so “obvious”?
4. Can a person who lives according these *works of the flesh* be a true Christian?
5. Paul’s dire warning in verse 21 has a finality to it. Is there no remedy?

**Closing thought:** *Let us use our freedom for good, not evil.*

**Next Time:** *The Fruit of the Spirit, Galatians 5:22-26*