

Walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:1-26

Lesson 7

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Which of the truths you studied last week ministers to you the most?

2. Believers can often be confused and even seduced by legalism because it appears to offer deeper spirituality. So, how can a believer discern between legalism and a genuine walk in the Spirit? Galatians 5 provides the tools for discernment that every believer needs. By contrasting the practices of legalism with the promises of a walk in the Spirit, Paul presented the fruit that every believer should look for. Read the passages below and highlight any contrasts you find between legalism and a walk in the Spirit:
 - a. Galatians 5:1-6

 - b. Galatians 5:7-15

 - c. Galatians 5:16-21

 - d. Galatians 5:22-26

3. Take a few moments to commit your study time to the Lord. Write your prayer here.

*If we live in the Spirit,
let us also walk in the Spirit.*
Galatians 5:25

SECOND DAY: Read Galatians 5:1–6

1. Read Galatians 5:1. In light of what Paul already said concerning the law and freedom in Christ, note what he exhorted the Galatians to:
 - a. do
 - b. not do
 - (1) Share a way you can heed this exhortation.
 - (2) Contrast this legalistic *yoke of bondage* with the *yoke* described in Matthew 11:29–30. What do you see?
2. According to Galatians 5:2–3, what are the ramifications of being *under the law* (circumcision)?
3. Use Galatians 5:4 to state the condition of those who *attempt to be justified by law*.
 - a. Explain why this is dangerous.
4. Instead of being *justified by law*, what are we to do *through the Spirit*? Galatians 5:5
5. According to Galatians 5:6a, what *avails* nothing?
 - a. Rather, what does avail *in Christ Jesus*? Galatians 5:6b
 - (1) Link this with Colossians 1:4 and 2 Timothy 1:13. Share your thoughts.
6. From what you studied today, how would you warn someone against legalism?

THIRD DAY: Read Galatians 5:7–15

1. The Galatian believers had a good start – they *ran well*. Then what happened? Galatians 5:7
 - a. Where did this persuasion *not come from*? Galatians 5:8
 - (1) What does this convey about legalism?
2. What warning did Paul give the Galatians? Galatians 5:9
 - a. In the Bible *leaven* often symbolizes an evil influence. Link this with 1 Corinthians 5:6–8. What do you see?
3. What was Paul’s *confidence*? Galatians 5:10a
 - a. What would happen to those who troubled them? Galatians 5:10b
4. Galatians 5:11 NLT reads, *Dear brothers and sisters, if I were still preaching that you must be circumcised—as some say I do—why am I still being persecuted? If I were no longer preaching salvation through the cross of Christ, no one would be offended. Why was Paul still being persecuted?*
5. In Galatians 5:12 Paul expressed strong emotions. What did his emotions convey about the dangers of legalism?
6. Paul reaffirmed the believer’s call to *liberty*; yet, how should liberty *not* be used? Galatians 5:13
 - a. Link this with 1 Peter 2:16. What do you see?
 - b. By contrast, how should *liberty* be used? Galatians 5:13c
 - (1) Share a constructive way you can use your liberty.
7. According to Galatians 5:14, how is *all the law* fulfilled?
 - a. Use Matthew 22:37–40 and Romans 13:8 to state how *all the law is fulfilled*.
8. According to Galatians 5:15, what did legalism produce?
9. How can you use love as a tool to discern legalism?

FOURTH DAY: Read Galatians 5:16–21

1. In Galatians 5:16a Paul gave the remedy for not fulfilling the *lust of the flesh*. What did he exhort believers to do?
 - a. How would you define *the lust of the flesh*? See also 1 John 2:16.

2. From Galatians 5:17a describe the battle between the *flesh* and the *Spirit*.
 - a. What is the usual outcome of this battle? Galatians 5:17b
 - (1) Link this with Romans 7:18–25 and share your thoughts.

3. According to Galatians 5:18a, what gives us the victory in this conflict? See also Romans 6:14.
 - a. How will you appropriate this victory?

 - b. Use Romans 6:14 and Galatians 5:18 to write the condition of those who are led by the Spirit.

4. List the *works of the flesh* from Galatians 5:19–21a.
 - a. What stands out to you from this list? Why?

5. What had Paul told them *in time past* concerning these practices? Galatians 5:21b
 - a. What does the word *practice* convey to you about these things?

 - b. How does this warning encourage you to *walk in the Spirit*?

FIFTH DAY: Read Galatians 5:22–26

1. From Galatians 5:22–23a list the *fruit of the Spirit* and give a brief definition of each:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
 - h.
 - i.
2. According to Jesus in John 15:5, how is fruit produced in your life?
 - a. Why is this important to keep in mind?
3. What did Paul declare about the *fruit of the Spirit*? Galatians 5:23b
 - a. Refer back to Galatians 5:18. What do you see?
4. What have *those who are Christ's* done? Galatians 5:24
 - a. How would you explain this principle to a new believer? See also Luke 9:23–24.
5. Use Galatians 5:25 to fill in the blanks: *If we _____ in the Spirit, let us also _____ in the Spirit.*
 - a. The Greek word used here for *walk* implies *being in line with* or *following*. How does this relate to living *in the Spirit*?
6. Print Paul's exhortation from Galatians 5:26.
 - a. Why do you think this is an important exhortation for walking *in the Spirit*?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Use what you have learned this week to describe:

a. Life under the law

b. Life in the Spirit

2. What reasons can you suggest why walking in the Spirit is superior to living under the law?

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

Galatians 5:22-23