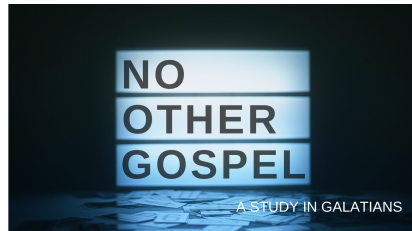


Spirit of Freedom

June 3 & 4, 2023



1. When it comes to the Christian life, people can easily fall into a ditch of either legalism or license. Legalism is when we create a bunch of extra-biblical rules to follow in order to make sure we don't sin. License is when we use God's free gift of grace as an excuse to sin. Which of these is more of a temptation for you? Why do you think that is?

In **Galatians 5:13-26** Paul teaches us that true freedom doesn't look like legalism or license, but a life of love empowered by the Spirit.

2. In **Galatians 5:14** Paul says, "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" In your own words, what do you think that means?
3. In **verses 16-18** Paul describes the battle waged within each believer. What is an area of your life where you experience this battle? Where the flesh wants one thing and the Spirit wants another.
4. In the moments where you feel the battle raging, what helps you overcome the flesh and walk in step with the Spirit?

5. Paul says in **verse 17** that "... you are not to do whatever you want." Let's think about how to apply this verse to our current cultural moment. What would you say to a friend who says, "I'm having a really hard time seeing how it could be wrong from someone to embrace a desire or orientation or gender-identity that they were born with and have no control over!"?
6. We see a list of the acts of the flesh in **verses 19-21** and a stern warning. How do you understand **verse 21**? How would you counsel a dear brother or sister who has fallen into temptation *AGAIN* and is wrestling with whether or not this warning means they are excluded from God's kingdom?
7. Remember, true freedom is a life of love empowered by the Spirit. So, how does others-oriented love keep us from some of the "acts of the flesh" described in this passage?
8. Finally, we get the fruit of the Spirit! If you're studying this with a group, why don't you go around the circle and share how you see the fruit of the Spirit in the members of your group!
9. The fruit of the Spirit are produced when we "walk in step with the Spirit". What can you do this week to walk more in step with the Spirit?