



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians

## Chapter 5

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# Introduction

- St. Paul concluded chapter 4 by affirming that we are the children of the freewoman.
- St. Paul explained in chapter 5 the concept of freedom and liberty in Christ.
- Since we are free, we are not required to keep the dead works of the law.
- But with this freedom we will be able to fulfill the law of Christ.
- Also we will be led by the Spirit.



# Christian Liberty (5: 1-6)

- A yoke is a wooden beam which is used between a pair of oxen to allow them to pull a load.
- To be justified by the law means we are under this heavy yoke, doing all this hard work without any benefit.
- Christ set us free from the law and sin, and has called us to carry His yoke (His commandment) which is light since He is the one who is carrying the whole load.



# Christian Liberty (5: 1-6)

- We need to be steadfast in the liberty.
- If you believe that you will be justified by circumcision, then your faith in Christ is not true, so He will not profit you.
- Observing circumcision as a necessity requires keeping the whole law
- Attempting to be justified by the Law will separate you from Christ and you will thereby fall from grace.



# Christian Liberty (5: 1-6)

- The basis for our hope of righteousness is through the Spirit (Chrismation) and by faith (Baptism).
- Circumcision is insignificant; what avails is faith working through love.
- Faith is more than a set of belief system
- The Demons have this kind of faith (James 2:19)
- Faith without works is dead.
- The true faith is faith working through love.

# Love Fulfills the Law (5: 7-15)



- Ran: your spiritual practices to be filled by the Spirit.
- Hindered: the false beliefs hinder the work of grace
- This was not from God but from the false teachers.
- Little leaven: the false teachers and their wrong teachings.
- St. Paul is confident in the Lord that they will return.



# Love Fulfills the Law (5: 7-15)



- In spite of their return, God will judge the false teachers.
- St. Paul himself was not preaching circumcision, otherwise why he was persecuted.
- Those who were offended by the cross, it is because St. Paul said with the cross there is no need for circumcision.
- So, if St. Paul was preaching circumcision, then they would not be offended by the cross.

# Love Fulfills the Law (5: 7-15)



- Cut themselves off: to be excommunicated
- Liberty does not mean undisciplined life or indulgence in sins.
- Use our liberty to serve one another in love, and the law will be fulfilled
- The ten commandments can be summarized in love God and love your neighbor
- Abuse your liberty or be under the law, and it will be an opportunity to consume one another!



# Walking in the Spirit (5: 16-26)



- Walk in the Spirit: fulfill the desire of the Spirit and not to be led by the lusts of the flesh.
- Flesh is the old man, and spirit is the new man
- If you keep the struggle between the flesh and spirit going, then you will do not do what you wish.
- If we are led by the Spirit, we are not under the law.
- This is the way of justification.

# Walking in the Spirit (5: 16-26)



- The works of the flesh will keep one from inheriting the kingdom of God
- Adultery: unlawful relationship
- Fornication: all kinds of sexual immorality
- Uncleanliness: prostitution
- Lewdness: preoccupied with sex and sexual desire; lustful.
- Idolatry: greed and love of money

# Walking in the Spirit (5: 16-26)



- Sorcery: magic and divination
- Hatred: lack of love
- Contentions: conflicts
- Jealousies: comparing with others
- Outbursts of wrath: explosions
- Selfish ambitions: working for my glory
- Dissensions: divisions
- Heresies: false doctrines and teachings

# Walking in the Spirit (5: 16-26)



- Envy: lack of contentment
- Murders: killing
- Drunkenness: alcoholism and addiction
- Revelries: unruly merrymaking
- Fruit of the spirit: singular
- With God: Love, joy, peace
- With others: longsuffering, kindness, goodness
- With myself: faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

# Walking in the Spirit (5: 16-26)



- Against such there is no law: when you have these fruits, you will not be under the law and the law cannot produce such fruit in your life.
- Those who are Christ's walk in spirit for they have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires
- They received the Spirit, then they should walk in Spirit
- Therefore they should not be arrogant, provoking and envying one another



# Conclusion

- What are the consequences of receiving circumcision?
- How did St. Paul show or demonstrate to the Galatians that he was not preaching circumcision?
- What consequences might be encountered when brethren bite and devour one another?
- What does St. Paul mean by the flesh?
- What are the two aspects of walking in the Spirit?