

**The Choice: Law or Liberty**  
**Galatians 5:13-21**

- I. The Personal Section - The Defense of Paul's Reception of the Gospel 1:1-2:21
- II. The Doctrinal Section - The Defense of Paul's Gospel - Justification By Faith Alone in Christ Alone 3:1-4:31
  - A. Justification is by Faith and Not Works of the Law 3:1-14
  - B. Inheritance Comes from Promise Not Law 3:15-22
  - C. The Sons of God are Heirs of the Promise Redeemed from the Bondage of the Law 3:23-4:7
  - D. The Sons of God Must Not Return to the Bondage of Law but Remain Free 4:8-31
- III. The Practical Section Defense of Christian Liberty 5:1-6:10
  - A. The Position of Liberty - Freedom 5:1-12
  - B. The Practice of Liberty - Love 5:13-25
    - 1. The Command to LOVE 5:13-15
      - a. The exhortation to liberty :13a  
Not under the law system but law of liberty  
James 1:25, I Pt 2:16; Rom. 7, II Cor. 3  
This is seen most clearly in dispensational theology as opposed to covenant theology John 1:17!
      - b. The utilization of liberty :13b-15
        - Liberty is not for license but is for love :13b
  
        - Love fulfills the law :14  
OT Perspective Matt. 5:43, 19:19, Law of Love Lev. 19:16-18  
  
NT Perspective John 13:34; Rom. 12:9ff, 13:8-10; I Cor. 13; I John 3:17, 4:7-8)
  
        - License is self-destructive :15  
  
How does this work in the local church?
    - 2. The Conflict of the Flesh and the Spirit 5:16-23
      - a. The Conflict of the Flesh and Spirit :16-18
        - The Command :16  
“**Flesh**” sarx - Physical- body, Metaphorical- inner self, base nature  
“**Walk**” peripeteoo- life, order of living, activity  
Eph. 2:2, 2:10, 4:1, 5:2,8,15  
Rom. 6:4, 8:4, 13:13, 14:15  
I Cor. 3:3 7:17  
II Cor. 4:2, 5:7  
Philp. 3:17-18  
  
“**Desires**” of the flesh “epithumia” ἐπιθυμέω longings-lusts

- The Cause of the Command :17

Jesus - "Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" Mk 14

Spiritual life battle- My flesh vs His Spirit.

"so that you may not do what you please" (desire **θέλω** theloo)

Inner man desires the right desires!

Human Constitution and Contamination

(Do we have one nature or two?) Gal. 2:20; II Cor. 5 New creation?

Am I a sinner who is a saint or a saint who sins?

- The Conclusion of the Command :18

Positional and/or Conditional

We are not led by the Law that leads to death II Cor. 3

We are under the power and leadership of the Spirit in our spirit

Rom. 8:1-17

But we still have capability and thus cope-ability

The Christian life is a battleground not a playground. We fight the good fight, but we must also understand that we fight the world, the flesh and the devil. It is a full time war!

II Cor 7:1

b. The Characteristics of the Works of the Flesh and the Fruit of the Spirit :19-23

1. The Works of the Flesh :19-21

Five Categories

- Sexual Sins

- Spiritual Blindness

- Divisive Spirit

- Insobriety

- Open Ended

Do you sense that you have a personal problem in a certain category?

Do you sense that there is a specific sin area of difficulty for you?

What will you do in light of this spiritual issue of sin?

Consider the facts

Count the Cost

Confess your sin to the Lord

Count on His grace

Celebrate His forgiveness

Carpe Diem

Carry on in your walk with Jesus