

Galatians:

5:1. In the sphere of freedom, Christ has freed us; therefore, stand firm and stop being enmeshed again by the yoke of slavery.

In the sphere of freedom: The sphere of freedom is God's power system. This power system is composed of two powers namely the power of the Filling of the Spirit, and the power of God's word circulating in our stream of consciousness. We are to stand firm in this freedom namely to utilize these powers to advance spiritually to the point of maximum love for the members of the Trinity. 'Stand firm' was a military command given by the commanding officer to a military unit under great pressure. In this context, God is the commanding officer commanding us to keep learning and applying doctrine under all kinds of pressures.

Christ has freed us from the power of the sin-nature. He did this by providing a power system which has much greater power than the power of the sin-nature. The powers of the sin-nature consists of the area of weakness from which comes sins, the area of strength from which comes human good (the good manufactured by the Christian when he is out of fellowship with God, and the lust pattern consisting of such lusts as power, approbation, crusader (related to self-righteousness), pleasure, sexual, chemical, social, material, criminal lust and avarice.

Stop being enmeshed again [the Greek negative 'me' along with the present imperative means to stop doing something which you are doing] by the yoke of slavery. Before salvation the Galatians were involved in terrible asceticism and hedonism; after salvation they were becoming enmeshed by the legalism of Judaism. Asceticism, hedonism, and legalism enslave the individual to the sin-nature.

Galatians 5:18 clearly states that if a Christian puts himself under the authority of the Mosaic Law for his spiritual life (legalism) rather than operating under the power of the Holy Spirit, he will be out of fellowship with the Spirit and in bondage to the sin nature. In legalism, the Christian will find himself 'in the yoke of slavery' to the sin nature as the Galatians demonstrated (Galatians 5:19-20).

Jesus Christ destroyed the power of the sin-nature on the cross for Romans states, 6:1-10:

6:1: Therefore, what are we to conclude? Are we to continue in [the power of] the sin nature in order that the grace might increase?

Paul just stated in 5:20, ". . .where sin increased, grace abounded all the more." There is a type of arrogant Christians who would conclude, if that is true, then I will sin all the more that the grace of God may abound even more. This type of Christian will receive discipline from the Lord for his distortion of grace. Grace is designed to enable the Christian to serve God, not the devil.

6:2: Emphatically not! We who have died to the sin nature [Retroactive Positional Truth], how shall we still live in it [the power of Sin Nature]?

The sin nature has power namely the power related to sin and human good. The sin nature promises happiness through its temptation to sin and the temptation to produce human good (a good produced by the Christian when he is out of fellowship with God). The cross

broke this power since sin was judged on the cross, and human good was rejected. (On the cross, the humanity of Christ was filled with the Spirit during the entire period of judgment. So, the work of the cross was accomplished in the sphere of divine power, not human. (Thus, even if the Christian were to sin and produce sin, good and evil (good and evil being the policy of Satan) while functioning out of fellowship, he could quickly remove this control of the sin nature by confessing his sins to the Father. (The grace function of the confessing of sins is a grace procedure which was given to the believer as a result of the judgment which took place on the cross.) At which time, the Father forgives the believer of his sins and cleanses him of all wrong doing (this would include human good and evil). This confession or citing of ones sins places the Christian back under the authority of God the Spirit and allows him to use the two powers of the spiritual life. In this sphere of divine power whatever good the Christian produces would be classified as divine good since it would be produced by the power of God the Holy Spirit and the power of God's Word .

6:3: Or do you know that all of us have been baptized into [identified with] Christ Jesus [Positional Sanctification: we are in union with Christ in his life in heaven], and have been baptized into His death [identified with his substitutionary spiritual death at the cross]?

Positionally, (in union with Christ) we share his righteousness, heirship, priesthood, destiny, election, eternal life, royalty, sonship. For the details, please see the doctrine of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This should be the focus of our destiny.

6:4: Therefore, we have been buried together with Him through the baptism [of the Spirit] into His death [physical], in order that as Christ has been raised up from the dead, through the glory of the Father, so also we might walk in newness of life [the spiritual life of the Church Age: experiential sanctification].

Christ had to die physically "and Jesus having shouted clearly (the Greek word phoneo means to speak loudly with meaning) with a loud voice said, Father, into your hands I deposit my [human] spirit, and having said this, he exhaled" (Luke 23:46). (This last exhale caused his physical death. His soul and spirit had to depart from his mortal body) in order to receive his resurrection body. Just as Christ had to die physically in order to obtain his resurrection body, so we must depart from our body or corruption or mortality in order to receive our eternal body (called our resurrection body).

Our being identified with Christ should motivate us to execute the spiritual life.

6:5: For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death [the substitutionary death of Christ on the cross], and we have, and not only this, but also we shall be [gnomic future thus a logical result, not a chronological result] united in the likeness of His resurrection [Current Positional Truth: in union with the resurrected Christ].

This is not the predictive future. If it were the predictive future, it would be predicting the Rapture at which time we will receive our resurrection bodies.

6:6: Be knowing this [Retroactive Positional Truth], that our old man [the sin nature dates back to the Garden] has been crucified together with Him, in order that the human body,

with reference to its sin nature, [the sin nature located in the body] might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to the sin nature .

“ . . .our old man has been crucified with Him” meaning that the power of the sin nature was broken on the cross. Since the power of the sin nature was broken by the work of the cross, we as believers have no excuse for not executing the spiritual life. We will not be able to say to Christ that the sin nature was too powerful for us to execute the spiritual life.

6:7: For we who have died [the Christian is identified with the substitutionary spiritual death of Christ: theologically called Retroactive Positional Truth] have been acquitted [positional deliverance] from [the power of] the sin nature.

6:8: Now if we have died with Christ, and we have [retroactive positional truth], we also believe that we shall live in association with Him [Current Positional Truth].

6:9: Knowing that because Christ has been raised from the dead [He received a resurrection body], he can never die; [physical] death is no longer a master over Him.

6:10: For the death [substitutionary spiritual death] which He has died, He has died once for all with reference to the sin nature; but the resurrection-life which He lives, He lives with reference to the God [the Father].

5:2. Mark my words [behold]! I Paul, communicate to you for your benefit [dative of advantage] that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you at all.

The 3rd class conditional sentence in this verse means the following:

1. Some Galatian unbelievers believed that circumcision was necessary for salvation. In which case, they were not saved.
2. Some Galatian believers who were saved by grace in hindsight now thought that circumcision was necessary for salvation. They had entered into legalism.
3. Some Galatian believers thought that circumcision was necessary to execute the spiritual life, and so were circumcised. They had entered legalism.
4. Some Galatian believers not only thought that circumcision was necessary for the execution of the spiritual life, but that keeping the Mosaic Law in general was the spiritual life, and so were living under the Mosaic Law. A Christian under the Mosaic Law is not able to execute the spiritual life (Galatians 5:18).

5:3. Now, I myself testify [to give evidence in a courtroom case] again [he has done it before] to every man who receives circumcision that he is under obligation to keep the entire Law [James 2:10: you break it at one point, you break the entire Mosaic Law].

Paul is testifying not only against the Galatians but against all generations of Christians involved in legalism [the static present]. In Paul's day it was circumcision; today it is water baptism. No one is saved or spiritual by being circumcised; no one is saved or spiritual by undergoing water baptism. God's program operates on grace, not works.

Only a perfect person could keep the Mosaic Law perfectly. So, if you were perfect, (but you are not) and thus able to keep the Mosaic Law perfectly, (but you can't), then you would not have to go through the cross in order to receive imputed righteousness. However, the only perfect person after the fall of Adam and the woman is the humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5:4. From the source of Christ [Christ is the source of our salvation and spiritual life], **you have become ineffective** [because of their legalism related to the Mosaic Law]; **such a category as you who are seeking to be righteous by the Law** [being made righteous by the Mosaic Law]. **You have drifted off course from grace** [a nautical term].

The Galatian believers in retrospect have accepted circumcision as a means of salvation and the Mosaic Law (including circumcision) as a system of spirituality- they have drifted off course from grace. Salvation and the spiritual life come "from the source of Christ." So, since they have rejected the spiritual life (Galatians 5:16), they have no fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Law is to show us that we are sinners and need help. The mixed-up and legalistic individual used the Law for a system of commendation rather than for a system of condemnation.

Paul then redefined circumcision in terms of our spiritual life. Philippians 3:3, "For we are the true circumcision who worship by means of the Spirit of God and boast in the sphere of Christ Jesus [to obtain a personal sense of destiny and then to parlay that into occupation with Christ], and put no confidence in the flesh [avoid legalism]."

Abraham's destiny was to start a new race through his wife Sarah and their son Isaac. Circumcision was the ritual-sign of this fulfillment. This new race would become a great people and God would give them four unconditional covenants: Abrahamic, Davidic, Land (Palestinian), and the New Covenant. Thus, for the Jewish believers of the Old Testament, the Covenants were the focus for their personal sense of destiny and the ritual sign was circumcision.

However, for Church Age believer the focus is not on circumcision but on his position in Christ. The Jews in the Age of Israel were a new physical race; we in the Church Age are a new spiritual species in Christ. Thus, our destiny focuses on the Baptism of the Spirit, "For there is neither circumcision nor uncircumcision, but a new [spiritual] species." (Galatians 6:15). We fulfill our destiny by executing the spiritual life as found in the mandates of the New Testament epistles. "Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but what matters is keeping the mandates of God," (1 Corinthians 7:19).

5:5. For we [the mature believer] **and only we by means of the Spirit and from the source of doctrine eagerly anticipate confidence related to righteousness** [Paul and those advancing with him have confidence that they will be able to complete God's plan of experiential righteousness].

Imputed righteousness, experiential righteousness and ultimate righteousness are all based on grace. Therefore, none of these are accomplished through any form of works including the Mosaic Law. While the unbeliever is hustling around for salvation, and the legalistic Christian is hustling around performing dead works from his own ability, we the growing believers are eagerly waiting for what God is going to do for us. Thus by application this verse can be applied to imputed righteousness, experiential righteousness and to ultimate righteousness. However, by interpretation it applies to experiential righteousness. For this entire chapter is dealing with the Galatian Christians who are trying to execute

God's plan without the two powers of the spiritual life for they have put themselves under the Mosaic Law rather than the Holy Spirit.

5:6. For in Christ Jesus [position in Christ is the sign of a personal sense of destiny] **neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything** [ritual in itself doesn't mean anything], **but doctrine** [the only effective means of advance] **through love** [virtue love] **accomplishes.**

One's position in Christ is not affected by any portion of the Mosaic Law including circumcision. Furthermore, since we live in the Church Age and are not a part of the new racial species of Israel, circumcision has no meaning at all except for hygienic purposes.

Experientially, the believer advances toward his objective via a two column advance namely the doctrine and love columns. As we apply doctrine to our lives and toward the members of the Trinity, the greater our loves becomes for them and the easier it becomes for us to apply unconditional love toward the human race. The greater our love becomes, the more we want to increase our knowledge of God's Doctrines. The columns support each other in this way.

5:7. You [believers] **were running well** (commendably). **Who hindered you** [who cut in front of you and caused you to lose your stride] **resulting in your not obeying** [obedient to; resisting] **the truth** [of the spiritual life]?

Running a race is being used by Paul as a metaphor for the spiritual life. The Galatian believers were running the race towards their spiritual objectives, but suddenly someone caused them to fail. The Judaizers came in and broke their stride by teaching legalism. Paul will get them back-in.

Something in their souls made them susceptible to the Judaizers.

Regarding the Judaizers, Paul had this to say to the Philippians:

3:2. Beware of those dogs [Judaizers: false Jewish teachers; legalistic reversionist], beware of those evil workers [the same Judaizers who were always in opposition to Paul's ministry], beware of the mutilation [a reference to circumcision as a means of getting to heaven].

The Judaizers took something which was legitimate and distorted it into a system of legalism. They mutilated rather than circumcised. They made it a prerequisite both for salvation and the spiritual life.

The dog in the ancient world semi-wild and had a bad reputation. These dogs often traveled in packs and were usually hungry and vicious. Also, they were carriers of all the animal diseases including hydrophobia. Not only were they carriers of diseases, but also of insects such as fleas which themselves carried diseases. He was also a scavenger eating carrion and garbage. So, to call someone a dog was very derogatory. So, just as these dogs of the ancient world fed on garbage and carrion so the Judaizers fed on the principles and doctrines of evil. So, Paul calls them "dog" scavengers of theology. Just as dogs infected others, so the Judaizers traveling in packs infected Paul's worldwide congregation with all kinds of false doctrines.

3:3: For we and only we [mature Church Age believers] keep on being [customary present] the circumcision [of the soul] who worship by means of the Spirit of God, and glorying [to boast in a good sense: esprit de corps] in Christ Jesus; and having no confidence in the flesh [in human viewpoint, ability, talent or anything related to legalism].

5:8. That persuasion [circumcision as necessary for salvation] **is not out from the one** [the Father] **who elected** [called us into his plan based on grace] **you.**

5:9. A little leaven [legalism] **leavens the entire lump.** [The Galatians ate a lot of bread and so understood this].

When you put a little leaven in a lump of dough, the leaven takes over the dough and the entire mass of dough becomes leavened. If a little legalism enters your soul, you will become entirely legalistic.

Leaven always represents something evil in Scripture (Exodus 12:8, 19; 13:7; 34:25). There are five different kinds of leaven in Scripture. In Mark 8:15 there is the leaven of Herod: worldliness. In Matthew 16:6 there is the leaven of the Sadducees: rationalism or human viewpoint. In Mark 8:15 and in Luke 12:1 there is the leaven of the Pharisees: religion. In 1 Corinthians 5:6, 7 there is the leaven of licentiousness. In Galatians 5:9 there is the leaven of legalism. The legalism of circumcision turned their entire lifestyle into a lifestyle of legalism.

5:10. I have confident [in God's word] **with reference to you** [that you will respond to this teaching] **by the Lord** [the Holy Spirit will communicate the doctrine that Paul writes] **that you will hold a different conviction than the one you hold presently** [that you Galatians will respond to the Word and discard legalism.] **The one who is troubling you** [throwing you into confusion] **will bear his judgment** [must be ostracized and removed from the assembly] **whoever he may be** [the protasis of a 3rd Class conditional sentence: it is more probable that the Galatians upon listening to this message will remove these troublemakers from their congregations].

5:10. I have confidence with reference to you by the Lord that you will hold nothing other [Koine Greek:ouden allo: nothing other (Classical Greek 'ouden allo e:'nothing other than) (than) the correct view. In Greek the sentence is incomplete. However, this hanging expression demands that the reader complete this idiom from the information found in the context. So, we complete the sentence with the words, 'the correct view.' Thus, this sentence could be translated, 'I have confidence with reference to you by the Lord that you will hold a different conviction than the one you hold presently

5:11. Brethren, if I am still preaching circumcision [let's assume that it is true], **then why am I still being persecuted?** **In that case** [if salvation were by circumcision] **the offence** [the work of the cross: offensive to a legalist] **of the cross would have been rendered null and void.**

Paul did teach salvation by circumcision when he was a Pharisee, but after becoming a believer he taught salvation and the spiritual life by grace. The Judaizers when talking with the Galatians implied that Paul was still teaching a salvation by circumcision and a spiritual life via the Mosaic Law. So, Paul reasons with the Galatians in the following way: if I were still teaching salvation by circumcision etc., the Judaizers would not be opposing me. However, since I am no longer teaching their brand of legalism, they are attacking both my ministry and my person.

If salvation came by circumcision, then why would we need the cross? We wouldn't and the cross would have been rendered ineffective by the very reason that it is not necessary for salvation.

5:12. I wish that [would that: a fixed form introducing an unattainable wish] **those who are troubling** [inciting a revolt: the Judaizers] **you would go the whole way and emasculate themselves.**

The druid priests would often practice emasculation for their pseudo salvation. So, why don't those Judaizers and you Galatians who agree with this legalism, go all the way. Obviously, if circumcision is beneficial how much more if you cut it all off. Then, when you have finished take a good look at yourselves and see where legalism has taken you. You have accomplished no more than what your own heathenistic Druid priests had accomplished and where did it get them.

5:13. **For you were called** [received election by grace at the point of salvation] **into liberty** [freedom to serve the Lord, not to serve the sin nature], **brethren. Only** [limits the action designated by the verb: called] **do not [use] your freedom as an opportunity for the purpose of the flesh** [to serve the sin nature with emphasis on legalism in this passage], **but through virtue love** [which eliminates sinful competition] **be subordinate to one another** [treat each other in unconditional love and respect the rights, privileges and privacy of each other].

All royal family members have the right of privacy. He has the right to live his life as unto the Lord. It is not the believer's responsibility to straighten out other believers. Every time a believer judges, maligns, criticizes, evaluates another fellow believer this right is violated.

The command to be subordinate to one another has nothing to do with this monstrosity called discipleship. God ordained certain men to become spiritual professors via the spiritual gift of communication. When a pastor teaches his congregation, he is teaching to a group. The individual believer when listening to his pastor from within a group is able to maintain his privacy and his objectivity. However, when some spiritual bully interrogates and attempts to teach another believer face to face, it not only is a violation of the pastor's authority, but also destroys the privacy and the objectivity of the individual believer to live his life to please the Lord.

Those Christians who attempt to correct and teach others on a personal basis are nothing more than arrogant believers. Not only have these Christians usurped the pastor's responsibility, but also they are attempting to take over the Lord's authority for it is the Lord who evaluates, approves or disproves of the believer's lifestyle. If the believer is failing, it is the Lord who attempts to correct the believer through discipline. If the believer executes the spiritual life, it is the Lord who blesses. In short, Christians who practice discipleship have seized both the pastor's authority and that of the Lord's.

5:14. For the entire law [the Mosaic law] **is fulfilled in one doctrine. "You will love your neighbor as [you love] yourself.**

"You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons (citizens) of your people, but you shall love [unconditional love (impersonal love)] your neighbor (anyone you know or come in contact with) as yourself (spiritual self-esteem); I am the Lord", Leviticus 19:18.

5:15. But if you bite and devour each other [judging, criticizing, maligning, gossiping, lying, revenge etc] **and you are, beware so that you are not consumed** [destroyed] **by one another.**

In legalism believers become immersed in mental attitude sins resulting in the function of the sins of the tongue. Legalism has no power when dealing with the problems which occur when interacting with people. Biting and devouring one another is the arrogance complex of sins which includes jealousy, inordinate ambition and competition, gossip, maligning, judging etc. This is how Christians destroy themselves, others and their churches.

5:16. But I say, keep walking by means of the Spirit, and you will never fulfill [carry out, gratify] the lusts of the flesh [sin nature].

Walking is a metaphor for the spiritual life. Walking is system of advancing with the body in balance with the person shifting his weight from the hind foot to the foot going forward. Also, a person walks with one step at a time, not two or three. So, it is with the Christian way of life; we live one day at a time, not a week nor a year at a time. When we learn and apply the Word of God under the authority and power of the Holy Spirit, we advance in harmony with God's will for our lives.

The strongest negation in Greek is the 'subjunctive of emphatic negation.' This grammatical expression contains two Greek negatives 'ou' and 'me' with a verb in the subjunctive mood. So, this expression could be translated as either, 'you will not ever fulfill' or 'you will never fulfill.'

So, the Christian is either in fellowship with God fulfilling the desires of God, or he is out of fellowship fulfilling the lusts of the sin nature. Each is mutually exclusive of the other. The Galatians at this point are out of fellowship with God and so were fulfilling the lusts (the false desires) of the sin nature as deduced from some of the sins they were committing (Galatians 5:19-21).

Lusts, erroneous desires come out from the sin nature, and since the sin nature is located in the cell structure of the body, Paul coined the Greek word 'sarks' (flesh) as a synonym for the sin-nature.

5:17. For the Flesh [sin nature] desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit is against [totally opposed to] the sin nature for these [two] are constantly battling against each other [for control of the soul] [and you have subordinated yourselves to the sin nature] so that you are not doing the things which you might wish to do [Even though most wished to execute God's will, they were failing. This is expressed through a 3rd Class Conditional Clause].

The Holy Spirit indwells the body of each believer (1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:11). The sin nature also resides in the body of each person. Romans 6:6, "Be knowing this that our old man [the sin nature] has been crucified together [with Him] [the power of the sin nature is doctrinally broken], in order that the human body with reference to its sin nature [this Greek word in the singular many times refers to the sin nature] might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to the sin nature."

The Holy Spirit works through metabolize doctrine circulating in the mentality of the believer's soul. When the Christian is in fellowship with the Holy Spirit namely, the Spirit will demand that the Christian apply God's word to his circumstances, pressures and testings. If the believer is obedient to the Holy Spirit, he remains in fellowship with the Spirit and the Spirit remains in control of the believer's soul. However, if the believer yields to the temptations of the residing sin nature, then he comes under the control of the sin nature namely the sin nature gains temporary control over the believer's soul. Thus, the indwelling of the Spirit and the residing sin nature go to battle against each other for control over the believer's soul.

The Galatian believers were submitting to the lusts of the sin nature and failing to execute the spiritual life. This is especially true of the young believer who has not yet learned the spiritual life (he desires to execute, but is not doing well). As the believer advances spiritually, he gains more and more control over this inside enemy-agent located within the body. It takes a strongly motivated believer to consistently defeat the sin nature. The believer who respects and loves God has the necessary motivation and knowledge to enjoy maximum control over this covert agent of Satan (the sin nature).

5:18. But, if [assumed to be true] you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law [Mosaic Law].

Romans 8:2-4: For the law [principle] of the spirit of life [our spirituality] through the agency of Christ Jesus [tested and proved the prototype spiritual system in his humanity] has set you free from the law of sin [carnal state of the believer: 1 Corinthians 3:1] and death [perpetual carnality resulting in the sin unto death I John 5:16].

8:3. For the Law [is not a system of power, but can only be implemented by the determination of one's volition] was powerless in that it was weak through the flesh [sin nature], God having sent His own Son [deity] in the likeness of the flesh of sin [true humanity of Jesus without a sin nature] and as a substitute for sin [He who knew no sin became sin for us] he [God the Father] condemned sin [personal sins] in the flesh [God the Father judged the humanity of Christ, the only flesh without a sin nature: unlimited atonement].

8:4. In order that the righteousness [legal requirement] required by the law [about 2/3 of the Law; the other dealt with Christology] might be fulfilled in us [church age believers using the two powers of the spiritual life, who do not walk according to the flesh [the believer using the Mosaic Law as his spiritual life is operating under the sin nature: Galatians 5:18], but according to the Spirit.

The Mosaic Law was never designed to provide the Church Age believer with a spiritual life. Even the Old Testament believers did not derive their spiritual lives from the Mosaic Law. Adam, Enoch, Noah and Abraham all lived before the existence of the Mosaic Law. Moses was a mature believer 40 years before he received the Mosaic Law (Hebrews 11:24-27). Their spiritual lives were primarily related to applying God's Word by faith to their lives and situations. (Read Hebrews chapter eleven). The above verse clearly states that the Church age believer cannot be both under the authority of the Holy Spirit called the Filling of the Spirit and under the Mosaic Law.

There are two powers in the spiritual life of Church Age believer namely the Filling of the Holy Spirit, God's omnipotence and Bible doctrine (learned from the epistles) circulating in his stream of consciousness. The Mosaic Law has no power; it contains the Ten Commandments: you will not. . . you will not etc. It contains some Christology and Soteriology and many laws related to how the believer and unbeliever should live, but no power. However, the Mosaic Law is for our instruction, but we don't learn about the spiritual life from it. Where do you think we learn about the Filling of the Spirit, the Indwelling of the Spirit, Spirit Baptism (all Christians are in union with Christ), our spiritual gifts, ambassadorship, the royal priesthood, our rewards and loss of rewards, the Church Age standards regarding marriage et cetera? This information is all found in the New Testament Epistles. There are two powers in the spiritual life, and the Mosaic Law is not one of them!

In contrast to a Christian functioning correctly under the spiritual life, some Christians do place themselves under the Mosaic Law, but those Christians are legalistic and not under the authority of the Holy Spirit and not even fulfilling the righteous requirements of the Law. Only the believer under the authority of the Holy Spirit is able to fulfill the requirements of the Law for Romans 8:4 states, "In order that the righteousness (legal requirement) required by the law [as found in two thirds of the Law; the other dealt with Christology] might be fulfilled in us [church age believers] who do not walk according to the flesh [sin nature], but according to the Spirit.

When the believer puts himself under the Mosaic Law, that is he tries to keep the Law for the development of experiential righteousness, he is out of fellowship with God the Holy Spirit. Experiential righteousness is developed as the believer grows and applies the Word via the omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23). The believer cannot be under both simultaneously (this verse). Since the Galatians did indeed try to live the spiritual life via the Mosaic Law, they did so out of fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Consequently, their production was the production of the sin nature (Galatians 5:19-21).

5:19. Now, the works [actions] of the flesh [sin nature] are plainly seen such as [a representative list] fornication [pornea: including adultery], mental defilement from wrong doing [1 Thessalonians 2:3; Matthew 23:27] and sexual sins related to abnormality and criminality [akatharsia], licentious behavior [the Greek word aselgeia: extreme indulgence in sensual pleasure related to alcohol, drugs and sex including sexual sins related to idolatry and human sacrifice].

Regarding the Greek word 'akatharsia' (mental and moral defilement) in the Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, volume III, page 427, the writer has this to say, "Moral uncleanness implies more broadly the defilement of the soul by all kinds of wrongdoing, and more narrowly sexual profligacy." This profligacy includes such sins as masturbation, homosexuality, lesbianism, rape, incest, pederasty, pandering, bestiality and necrophilia. Quoting from the next page, "The NT also uses the words 2 [akathartos & akatharsia] of moral impurity which excludes man from fellowship with God (opposite 'hagios'), Paul adopts akatharsia from Judaism as a general description of the absolute alienation from God in which heathenism finds itself." By placing themselves under the Mosaic Law and remaining out of fellowship with the Spirit, the Galatians returned to their heathen ways.

5:20. Idolatry, sorcery [witchcraft; drug users], antagonisms [hostile feelings and actions toward others related to pettiness], strife [discord, contention for superiority], jealousy, outburst of anger, selfish ambition [rivalry, competition], dissensions [trouble makers such as the Judaizers], religious factions [self-seeking, contentious groups; heresies].

5:21. envyings, drunkenness, carousing [orgies], and similar things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you, that those who keep practicing [throughout their lives] these things shall not inherit [the rewards in] the kingdom of God [the eternal state].

Paul is warning the Galatians about losing their inheritance since they had returned to their former lifestyle of sexual sins and demonism. They are continually out of fellowship and not advancing in the spiritual life.

Some Christians read this passage and exclaim, "Woe unto me, I have lost my salvation." All Christians commit some of these sins. If we could lose our salvation through one or more of these sins listed above, none of us would be going to heaven. You have never been angry or jealous! Even sexual sins

cannot remove one's salvation. If they could many of the greats listed in the Hall of Fame of Hebrews 11 would not be going to heaven. Noah got drunk and was involved in sexual sins (masturbation and homosexuality: Genesis 9:21, 22), Abraham committed adultery with Hagar, the Egyptian girl, David committed adultery with (or raped) Bathsheba and then murdered her husband, Uriah the Hittite. Even though Moses did not commit a sexual sin, he did divorce his first wife and remarry. How can Christians be so completely stupid and think that this passage is talking about losing one's salvation?

First of all, no Christian can inherit the Kingdom of God. Whether the "Kingdom of God" is the Millennial Kingdom (belongs to God) or the Eternal Kingdom (belongs to God), you cannot inherit these kingdoms. So, obviously, it is not talking about inheriting a kingdom. The interpretive word in this passage is the verb 'inherit' (kleronomeo). It is simply talking about inheriting honors, rewards and decorations in the eternal state.

Heirship is based on sonship. You must be a son before you can become an heir. The Galatian Christians were Sons of God (Galatians 3:26-28), and since God is very wealthy, the potential for tremendous inheritance is there. All Christians will inherit certain blessings, but much of the inheritance is dependant upon how well the Christian executes God's plan. .

Another important word in this passage is the present active participle of 'prasso.' The present tense is progressive; it refers to those believers who keep on committing certain sins their entire spiritual lives. They are never able to gain control over their sin natures since they are not "growing in grace and knowledge" and so are failing to execute the spiritual life. In the context, we are talking about Galatian believers who are out of fellowship. They have completely abandoned the spiritual life. So, Paul warns them that if they fail to advance to spiritual maturity, the place where the believer loves God and shares in God's happiness, then that believer will die the Sin unto Death (1 John 5:16) and lose his eternal rewards.

5: 22. But the gain [profit, production, fruit] **of the Spirit is love** [love for God and unconditional love for people], **happiness** [sharing God's happiness], **tranquility** [capacity for prosperity], **not moved by emotion** [very good control over ones emotions], **integrity** [doing what is right, kindness], **generosity**, **faith** [advanced faith-rest drill],

The Greek word "makrothumia" means patience, not influenced or controlled by emotion". The mature believer has control over his emotions. Even when he is under great pressure, he doesn't react with worry, anger, hatred, bitterness, jealousy, fear etc. During his advance to spiritual maturity, he has learned to think under pressure and to apply Biblical principles and truths to his pressure and problems. His love for the Lord and his great happiness gives him the motivation necessary to handle any problem in life with divine thinking.

5:23. humility [is developed through obedience to bone fide authority], **self-discipline, over such things, there is no law.**

One cannot mandate the above characteristics. If law had the power to do so, we would just pass a law that mandates love, happiness, integrity, humility etc. The Mosaic Law is a law and as such never had the power to produce these wonderful characteristics listed in verses 22 and 23.

On Paul's first missionary journey, he went through southern Galatia explaining the gospel. To the thousands of Galatian converts he then explained the spiritual life. They were growing in grace and

knowledge while Paul was there, but after Paul had departed, the Judaizers came into those cities and had convinced the Galatians that salvation came by circumcision, and the spiritual life came through keeping the Mosaic Law. (There is no power in legalism only sin nature control.) In their impulsiveness, they quickly switched sides and threw out all what Paul had taught about the spiritual life. In effect they had accepted verses 20 and 21 as a substitute for verses 22, 23.

5:24. And those who belong to Christ Jesus [all Church Age believers] **have crucified the flesh** [a synonym for the sin nature] **together with its passions** [over powering, compelling emotion] **and lusts** [strong desires which are opposed to the plan of God].

All Church Age believers take part in Retroactive Positional Truth and Current Positional Truth. In Retroactive Positional Truth, the Christian is identified with Christ in his substitutionary spiritual death, his physical death, burial. In Current Positional Truth we are identified with Christ in his resurrection, ascension and session at the right hand of the Father. This doctrine will be explained in detail when we do Romans chapter six.

On the cross, Jesus rejected human good while being punished for all the sins of mankind. Since Jesus applied divine thinking from his soul under the omnipotence of the Spirit, no human power was used on the cross. Human good and sin are two powers related to the sin nature. Since human good was rejected on the cross and the payment for all sins was handled on the cross, we say that the sin natured has been crucified that its power has been broken.

5:25. If we live by the Spirit and we do [a principle assumed to be true], **let us advance** [in our spiritual life] **by means of the Spirit.**

The Christian must have correct spiritual values and want to live by the Spirit. The command “let us advance” is a hortatory subjunctive in the Greek. Paul is saying, join me in my advance. Unfortunately, the most important thing for many Christians is to make money in the day and to seek entertainment at night.

5:26. Let us not become conceited [arrogant] **challenging** [provoking] **one another, being jealous of each other.**

The Christian cannot advance in the spiritual life when he is full of arrogance. Furthermore, competition with other people is destructive to the spiritual life.