

### **Galatians 5:13-26 (New International Version)**

13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature<sup>[a]</sup>; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."<sup>[b]</sup> 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

16 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. 26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

#### **Footnotes:**

- a. [Galatians 5:13](#) Or the flesh; also in verses 16, 17, 19 and 24
- b. [Galatians 5:14](#) Lev. 19:18

**OASIS: Life in the Spirit (Galatians 5: 13-26)**  
**Capstone Study for Fruit of the Spirit Series**

Potential Starter Q: **We have just been immersed in a loooong election season. So, what do you thing it means to “live free”?** (don’t get too political—just a few quick answers ☺)

- Pray for the Holy Spirit’s leading (if you haven’t already prayed)
- Read text either aloud or silently (or both).

Overview question: What are some of the “anti-one anothering” dangers mentioned?

First paragraph—verses 13-15:

O What do you learn about Christian freedom in this paragraph?

I What does “love” have to do with “freedom”?

A Any ways that we might occasionally harm one another—even if this *amazingly* loving LIFE Community?(*be theoretical*)

Second paragraph—verses 16-18:

O What are some of the contrasts in this tiny paragraph? What is the BASIC conflict?

O What do we learn about the Spirit? What do we learn about living/walking by the Spirit?

I What does it mean to you to be “led” by the Spirit? How do you do it?

Third portion—verses 19-26:

I What do you think the intended value of vs 19-21 was to the Galatians?

O In what ways do vs 22-26 describe “kingdom-living” that God wants us to have?

O What additional insights are offered about how to live/walk in the Spirit?

Summary and application:

I Let’s summarize what we learned about living/walking in the Spirit.  
(recognize the conflict, crucify--not indulge or gratify-- the sinful nature; invite/welcome the presence and power of the Spirit; keep in step or attentive to Spirit)

**A Are there any practical insights that grabbed you? That you need to implement more consistently in your life?**

**A What are some ways we can help one another stay in the middle of that process?**

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Text is on other page or [www.Biblegateway.com](http://www.Biblegateway.com)

- a. BIG idea on “Life in the Spirit”: Christ-like relationships are characterized by... our learning NOT to try harder, but to resist our sinful nature and live by God’s Spirit.
  - b. Key verses: Gal. 5: 16: “So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.”
  - c. Today’s text is didactic or teaching passage (not a narrative). To really understand the passage, we need to grapple with the line of thought. How does Paul make his overriding point? What repetitions, contrasts and illustrations does he use to develop the primary concerns. This kind of didactic passage is usually more difficult than narrative sections.
  - d. KEY: O = Observation; I = Interpretation; A = Application (or C = Challenge).
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Advice to leaders:

- a. Complement your OIA questions with “process questions” (what else? what more? What do others of you see/think?)
- b. Pace the study—move on—conclude strong, ending with **“difference making”** application.
- c. Determine the core questions you will ask (and know which ones to skip if pressed for time)
- d. Always reword questions in wording that is comfortable for you (if the question doesn’t make sense to you, then drop it.)
- e. If you are utilizing this “on-line” study and not part of OASIS, I recommend that you get the IVP one volume commentary entitled New Bible Commentary (21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition). It is well worth the \$40 or whatever it costs.