

verses 1. - 26.

1. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

The nature of Christian freedom.

2. Kinsmen I. Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you.
3. Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law.
4. You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ. You have fallen away from Grace.
5. for through, the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.
6. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything

the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

7 You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth?

8 Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.

9 A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough.

10 I am confident about you in the Lord that you will not think otherwise. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty.

11 But my friends, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.

12 I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves!

13 For you were called in freedom brother

and sisters. only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another.

14 for the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, you shall love your neighbour as yourself.

15. If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

The Word of the flesh.

16 Live by the spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh.

17 for what the flesh desires is opposed to the spirit, and what the spirit desires is opposed to the flesh are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want.

18 But if you are led by the spirit, you are not subject to the law.

19 now the works of the flesh are obvious;

fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy,
anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions,

21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like
these, I am warning you, as I warned
you before, those who do such things will
not inherit the kingdom of God.

The fruit of the Spirit.

22 By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,
generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and
self control, There is no law against such
things.

24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have
crucified the flesh with its passions and desires

25 if we live by the Spirit, let us also be
guided by the Spirit,

26 let us not become conceited, competing against

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envying one another.

DOING GOOD TO ALL

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently.

But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.

² Carry each other's burdens and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ.

³ If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

⁴ Each one should test his own actions.

Then he can take pride in himself, with comparing himself to somebody else.

⁵ ~~Not~~ each one should carry his own load.

⁶ Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor.

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.

A man reaps what he sows.

⁸ The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction, the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

NOT CIRCUMCISION BUT A NEW CREATION

¹¹ See what large letters I use as I write to you in my own hand!

¹² Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ.

¹³ Let even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that you may boast about your flesh.

¹⁴ May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.

^{15.} Neither circumcision or uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

^{16.} Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule even to the Israel of God.

^{17.} Finally, let no-one cause me trouble for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

^{18.} The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.