

THE \_\_\_\_\_ INTO CHRISTIAN FREEDOM (vv. 24-26)

1. *Salvation started by \_\_\_\_\_ the flesh (v. 24).*

2. *Salvation continues by \_\_\_\_\_ to the Spirit (vv. 25-26).*

### CONCLUSION

Every Christian must appropriately understand and observe Christian freedom.

1. Christian freedom primarily has to do with \_\_\_\_\_, not me.
2. This expression of Christian freedom—summarized by “the fruit of the Spirit”—is not natural, but \_\_\_\_\_.
3. At my conversion, God’s Spirit planted the seed of this fruitful freedom by associating me with Christ’s victorious \_\_\_\_\_.
4. This spiritual fruit of loving service is a compelling \_\_\_\_\_ to the saving power of Christ.



**LESSON 12:** “What is Christian Freedom?” **Date:** December 7, 2014  
**TEXT:** Galatians 5:13-26

### INTRODUCTION

Today, many people have a flawed understanding of what constitutes personal freedom, and it is no surprise that some believers have followed suit. The thinking goes like this: to be truly human is to be free to choose one’s own path; what liberates humanity is to be \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ that dictate how one should live.

Such an idea of personal freedom, however, is obviously simplistic and impossible on several levels. In *The Reason for God*, author Tim Keller explains three problems with that view of personal freedom.

- First, it is naïve about the complexity of the human \_\_\_\_\_.
- Second, it is naïve about the complexity of \_\_\_\_\_.
- Third, it is naïve about the \_\_\_\_\_ of reality.

So, in summary, real freedom is not doing what we most want to do. Real freedom is knowing which of the things we most want to do is siding with what we were \_\_\_\_\_ to do. Real freedom is finding the \_\_\_\_\_ restrictions, and that is why Jesus says, “If you hold to My teaching...you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ... [and] if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:31-32, 36; contrast with v. 34).

As we have seen, the book of Galatians is a book about freedom (2:4; 3:23; 4:1-2, 7, 8-9, 22-31; 5:1, 13). Indeed, Paul wants all believers to enjoy the freedom that is theirs in Christ! And yet, in agreement with Keller, Paul recognizes that such freedom must be properly restricted and directed in order for it to be truly liberating. So he educates us concerning the right \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christian freedom. If believers understand and honor their \_\_\_\_\_ as “Christians” (i.e., little Christs) in their practice of gospel-freedom, then they will be “free indeed.” ***Every Christian must appropriately understand and observe Christian freedom.***

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRISTIAN FREEDOM (vv. 13-15)

### 1. *What is Christian freedom? (v. 13)*

- a. *It is not an opportunity for \_\_\_\_\_—a focus on self/individual.*
  
- b. *It is an opportunity for \_\_\_\_\_—a focus on others/mutual.*

What we are learning here, then, is that \_\_\_\_\_ are the primary focus of Christian freedom, \_\_\_\_\_ them is the paramount goal of Christian freedom, and \_\_\_\_\_ is the principle motivation of Christian freedom.

### 2. *Why is Christian freedom important? (vv. 14-15)*

- a. *Viewed mutually, it \_\_\_\_\_ the Law (v. 14).*
  
- b. *Viewed individually, it \_\_\_\_\_ relationships (v. 15).*

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ FOR CHRISTIAN FREEDOM (vv. 16-18)

1. *The \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 16) — If I follow the Spirit, I won't follow the flesh.*

On a daily and practical level, to “walk by the Spirit” looks like this— \_\_\_\_\_ to the Spirit’s leadership on a regular basis, adding to that a \_\_\_\_\_ of what His will is (i.e., Bible study), and climaxing that in \_\_\_\_\_ as He gives us opportunities throughout the day.

2. *The \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 17) — The Spirit and the flesh vie for control of my life.*
  
3. *The \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 18) — Spirit-led living avoids the bondage of the Law.*

## THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF CHRISTIAN FREEDOM (vv. 19-23)

1. *The “\_\_\_\_\_ of the flesh” (vv. 19-21)*

- a. *Character (vv. 19-21a)*
  
- b. *Consequence (v. 21b)*

2. *The “\_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit” (vv. 22-23)*

- a. *Character (vv. 22-23a)*
  
- b. *Consequence (v. 23b)*