

# CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

## GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

October 20, 2019

### “GALATIANS 5:5-18”

For more information or to join a Growth Group, please visit our Growth Group page online at [cbclife.org/groups](http://cbclife.org/groups) or call the church office at 408.288.4115.

#### QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, did you hear something for the first time that stuck with you? Was there anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What is one thing from Sunday's message you are likely to remember and tell your friends about later?

#### MY STORY

1. Jeff talked about the difference between the modern idea of freedom and the biblical idea of freedom. We are not given freedom from something but freedom for something. Talk about a time in your life when you felt you were given freedom for something and how God used you.
2. Has most of your life as a Jesus follower been defined as being saved from something or saved for something? Talk about the difference in what those attitudes produce.

#### DIGGING DEEPER

##### READ GALATIANS 5:5-18

For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves! You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

1. What does Paul mean when he writes about the hope of righteousness? Discuss the distinction between the finished righteousness we receive in Jesus and the one we "eagerly wait for" in this passage?

The term goes back to what Jeff discussed on Sunday with it being an eager expectation. Not a hope-filled wish, but something you are fully expecting to receive. This idea brings to mind the attitude of our faith and the understanding that our righteousness is a gift that we open every day as we live out the gospel.

2. Paul talks about the person who preaches another gospel in this passage. When we encounter people who are preaching a different gospel, how should we respond? What might "preaching another gospel" look like in our context today?

Be cautious that this question doesn't turn into a gossip session about people in the past. We want to be as Christ honoring as we can, however we need to hold fast to the truth of the Gospel and speak up for it when the opportunity arises. Preaching another gospel in today's day and age may look like prosperity preaching, a more unitarian view of Christianity, a gospel that is overly "love" based and does not point to our sin and need for Christ, etc. Allow the conversation to flow into the opportunities we have to promote the true gospel in the midst of cultural opposition to it.

## DIGGING DEEPER (cont.)

3. In verse 13, Paul encourages us to not use our “freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Have you experienced situations where your freedom yielded an opportunity for the flesh? Why do you think this discussion was such a big deal for Paul?

As Jeff stated this weekend, many people misuse freedom and choose the negative when they are given freedom. This is the result of our sin nature and tendency to choose the wrong thing. The idea that, “I can do this because the grace of Christ is already covering it.” That abuses God’s grace and makes it about our actions rather than responding with love and adoration to God’s love.

4. It is easy for Paul to write the words in verse 16, “Walk in the Spirit.” But what does this mean for us practically today? Have you seen someone truly walking in the Spirit? What was different about that person? What things can you start to do to begin seeking how to walk in the Spirit?

Walking by the Spirit looks different for everyone, but it is always led by people who lavishly love others. Allow this to be an opportunity to glorify God through the faithfulness of God’s people. Talk about how these people have impacted the kingdom and how their legacy lives long after they are out of our lives physically.

5. You are not under the law if you are led by the Spirit (verse 18), are we still in some ways bound to a law even if we are led by the Spirit?

This continues the conversation about the tension between the full freedom that we have in Christ and our every day obedience that we offer to God every day. It goes back again to what Jeff talked about last weekend, that we can do all the right things for all the wrong reasons. The law comes down to our heart and intentions and not necessarily the outward actions we display.