

Galatians 5:16-25

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The primacy of freedom

- *“There is nothing He wills with more intensity under the glory of His own name than this: your freedom”* - John Piper
 - Christ has freed us so that we can be free!
- Legalism ----- **LIBERTY** ----- Licentiousness
 - To move towards legalism is to “fall from grace”
 - To move towards licentiousness is to “satisfy your flesh”
- Only in liberty can we live self-controlled, loving obedient lives. But how?
 - Enter the Holy Spirit

The 4 “twos”

THE 2 “MEN”

- **Old man:** has been put off (Col 3:9) and crucified (Rom 6:6)
- **New man:** has been put on (Col 3:10) and is being renewed day by day (2 Cor 4:16)

THE 2 “LAWS”

- **Of the mind:** delights in and wants to serve the law of God, but cannot (Rom 7:18)
- **Of sin:** is evil and overcomes the law of the mind (Rom 7:19)

The 4 “twos”

THE 2 “NATURES”

- **Flesh:** serves the law of sin (Rom 7:25), is not subject to the law of God (Rom 8:7) and produces death (Rom 8:6)
- **Spirit:** serves the law of God (Rom 7:25), fulfills the law of God (Rom 8:4) and produces life and peace (Rom 8:6)

THE 2 “BEHAVIORS”

- **Works of the flesh:** obvious (Gal 5:19) and will not inherit the kingdom of God (Gal 5:21)
- **Fruit of the Spirit:** due to abiding in Christ (John 15:5) and have no law against them (Gal 5:23)

Spiritual Strife

- The *old* man died and the *new* man moved into his house (Rom 7:24)
 - The *flesh* and the *Spirit* are at war with each other (Gal 5:17)
 - You need to decide whose side you're on!
- God is not interested in redeeming *your flesh*, he wants you to put it to death
 - Merciless (Rom 13:14), agonizing (1 Cor 9:27), deliberate (Lk 9:23; Jos 24:15)
 - Christ has nailed it to the cross **so leave it there!**

Victory by the Spirit

- Lead by (Gal 5:18) vs. Walk in (Gal 5:25)
 - **Lead by:** *Gentle nudge* (shepherding, escorting or dancing)
 - **Walk in:** lit. “*walk in line*” as soldiers march in a row, step-by-step
- As the Spirit *nudges*, you must yield to it’s pressure and deliberately *walk in line* (Holy Spirit) while trusting Him to keep you there
 - He supplies the power, you make the choice
 - **The promise:** you won’t fulfill the lust of the flesh. VICTORY!
- We must *crucify* the flesh **AND** walk in the Spirit
 - Whose slave are you!? (Rom 6:16)

Reflection Question

- Christian victory is only possible by two simultaneous acts: crucifying the flesh *and* walking in the Spirit. Failure to do either will delay your transformation (sanctification).
 - In practice, what do each of these look like for you?
 - Does one get more or less attention in your life?
 - Does it manifest in your spiritual progress?