

ECC Growth Groups – Term 2, 2014
Study 7 – Galatians 5:13-26

After sharing the Gospel with a friend, he/she replies, “So you’re telling me that it doesn’t matter what I do?”

What is *good* about your friend’s question?

How would you respond to your friend?

Read Galatians 5:13-26.

Place the title/heading cut outs (“Acts of the sinful nature” and “Fruit of the Spirit”) face up at different ends of the room, preferably where all group members can still see them. Then mix up the acts/characteristics cut outs (e.g. “idolatry”, “faithfulness”) and place them face down together somewhere in the middle of the room. One by one, have group members turn over an act/characteristic and, as a group, decide together which title/heading to place it under.

Paul tells his readers that they were “*called to be free*” (v 13). How has this freedom come about?

What is this freedom to be used for?

Why do we find it so difficult to use our freedom in this way?

From verses 16-18, how does Paul explain why we find this difficult?

How is this picture of the Christian life different from how some people see it?

Re-read verses 19-23.

Give group members a few minutes to individually reflect on the list of the “acts of the sinful nature” and the “fruit of the Spirit” (these should still be visible from the earlier Activity). Have them choose one act and one fruit that they would like God to help them with in their Christian life. Allow time for group members to individually commit this to the Lord in prayer.

People are often quite troubled by what Paul says in verse 21. Given what we’ve seen in this passage, and in the rest of Galatians, what must this verse *not* mean? What then *does* it mean?

What does Paul mean when he says in verse 23 – “*Against such things there is no law*”?

Paul says on a couple of occasions that we are to “*live by the Spirit*” or “*keep in step with the Spirit*”. Why is this a great way to sum up how we are to live as Christians?

Sexual immorality	Envy
Impurity	Drunkenness
Debauchery	Orgies
Idolatry	Love
Witchcraft	Joy
Hatred	Peace
Discord	Patience
Jealousy	Kindness
Fits of rage	Goodness
Selfish ambition	Faithfulness
Dissensions	Gentleness
Factions	Self-control
Acts of the sinful nature	Fruit of the Spirit