GOD'S GOSPEL of GRACE

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS

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Chapters 1–2: *Personal Autobiography*

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Scripture Reading

GALATIANS 5:13–26

THE MAIN POINT OF GALATIANS 5:13–26

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The only power that can subdue your self-centered, sinful nature is the indwelling Spirit of God (not the law!). So Christians, "keep in step with the Spirit."

Applying Galatians 5:13–26

1. Christian, beware the potential danger that accompanies a life of freedom (verses 13–15).

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- 2. Christian, be realistic about the constant battle within you (verses 16–21).
- 3. Christian, be confident in the Spirit's power to produce genuine love in you (verses 22–26).

"The one who walks in the Spirit] will keep discovering that nothing in his life is as good as it should be; that he has never fought as hard as he might have done against the clogging restraints and contrary pulls of his own inbred perversity; that there is an element of motivational sin, at least, in his best works; that his daily living is streaked with defilements, so that he has to depend every moment on God's pardoning mercy in Christ, or he would be lost; and that he needs to keep asking, in the light of his own felt weakness and inconstancy of heart, that the Spirit will energize him to the end to maintain the inward struggle."

— *J. I. Packer*, Keep in Step with the Spirit (page 37)