

**How We
Should Live**

Galatians 5

LET
love
LEAD.♥

How We Should Live

- Wonder - a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable
 - **Mark 4:41 NIV**, 41 They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”
- **1st John 3:1 NIV**, 1 See what great love the Father has *lavished* on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
 - Lavish - sumptuously rich, elaborate, or luxurious
 - **MSG**, 1 What marvelous love the Father has *extended* to us! Just look at it—we’re called children of God! That’s who we really are.
 - **AMP**, 1 See (*Behold*) what an incredible quality of love the Father has *shown* to us, that we would [be permitted to] be named and called and counted the children of God! And so we are!

How We Should Live

- Not only has the Father loved us but He has also set us free, released us
 - **John 8:36 NIV, 36** So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
- Free from what?
 - **Romans 8:1 NIV, 1** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus
 - **Romans 3:18 NIV, 18** You have been set free from sin
 - The debt of sin
 - The power of sin
 - **Romans 6:14 NIV, 14** For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

How We Should Live

- After considering all of this, the Apostle Paul asked a question of the church in Galatia
 - How should we live out our lives?
 - How should true Christians live?
- He answers that question in Galatians 5

We must learn to walk in the wonder of our freedom in Christ

- **Galatians 5:1 NIV**, 1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.
 - **MSG**, 1 Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.
- Every person born into this world comes with a harness or yoke of slavery called our sinful nature or a mind governed by the flesh
 - **Romans 8:7-8 NIV**, 7 The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

We must learn to walk in the wonder of our freedom in Christ

- You will find there is an ongoing ever deepening, hardening, hatred for all things of God
 - **Galatians 5:17 ESV**, 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other
- Then here comes Christ offering us an eternal opportunity for a new life
 - Not just the forgiveness of sins but a new opportunity to be able to stand before a Holy, Righteous God and be accepted and adopted and counted in His family
 - Which is by grace alone through faith, a gift of God

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- Then here comes Christ offering us an eternal opportunity for a new life
 - **2nd Corinthians 5:17-19 NIV**, 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ
 - **TLB**, 17 When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun! 18 All these new things are from God who brought us back to himself through what Christ Jesus did.

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- Then here comes Christ offering us an eternal opportunity for a new life
 - Ezekiel described it like this in **Ezekiel 36;26-27 NIV**, 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
 - **MSG**, 1 Christ has set us free to live a free life.

We must be careful not to squander our freedom in Christ

- Squander – to waste in a reckless and foolish manner, to pass or be lost
- In 1982 film E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, Mars turned down an offer to use M&M in the movie
 - Hershey said yes and Reese's Pieces profited greatly experiencing an immediate 85% jump in sales upon the movie release

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- Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you, including yourself
 - Such a powerful warning because the potential is in each one of us

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 - **MSG**, 1 Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.
- Be careful of the, “You must not really be saved if....” statements
 - You must not really be saved if you are struggling
 - You must not really be saved unless you adhere to our list of requirements
 - You must not really be saved unless you believe exactly like us
 - You must not really be saved if you doubt

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 - **MSG**, 1 Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.
- Be careful of sliding away from the new life Christ has brought to you into the jaws of sinful living
 - Swamp People dangers getting out of the boat
 - We are in a new boat called Christianity but tempted to get out of the boat

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 - **MSG**, 1 Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.
- Instead of giving our new nature complete and unfiltered access to all of us, we allow our old one to seep back into our thoughts, emotions, desires, reactions
 - We begin seeing the world through our old nature
 - We respond to events and people through our old nature
 - We see ourselves through our old nature
 - We end up squandering our freedom Christ gave us

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- **Galatians 5:13 NIV**, 13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.
 - **TLB**, Dear brothers, you have been given freedom: not freedom to do wrong, but freedom to love and serve each other.
 - **Galatians 5:7 NIV**, 7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth?

We must walk in the wonder of the Holy Spirit In our Lives

- **Galatians 5:16 NIV**, 16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
 - **TLB**, I advise you to obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to.
 - **AMP**, But I say, walk habitually in the [Holy] Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature [which responds impulsively without regard for God and His precepts].

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- **Galatians 5:16 NIV**, 16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
- There is a better harness or yoke available to us
 - **Matthew 11:28-30 NIV**, 28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”
 - Come to Jesus
 - Choose to get into the yoke with Him
 - You will find rest and an easing of our burdens

We must walk in the wonder of the Holy Spirit In our Lives

- **Galatians 5:16 NIV**, 16 So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
- Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus will mature different fruit characteristics than is found in your old nature
 - **Galatians 5:22-23 NIV**, 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

We must walk in the wonder of the Holy Spirit In our Lives

- **Galatians 5:22-23 NIV**, 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
 - When you begin to grasp God's incredible quality of love for you personally and the freedom He brings, other things begin to follow it
 - Supernatural Joy regardless of circumstances – Why or How?
 - Because God loves me with an incredible quality of love
 - Supernatural Peace that Paul described as, “passes all human understanding” – Why or How?
 - Because God loves me with an incredible quality of love

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 - When you begin to grasp God's incredible quality of love for you personally, other things begin to follow it
 - Supernatural Forbearance - patient self-control; restraint and tolerance
 - Supernatural Goodness and Faithfulness
 - Supernatural Gentleness and Self Control
 - All because God loves me with an incredible quality of love and set me free to love Him

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- **Galatians 5:22-23 NIV**, 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
- Here is the good news
 - All of these are currently present in you as a born-again child of God as seeds of faith from the presence of the Holy Spirit
 - Choices must be made

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- **Isaiah 30:15 NIV**, “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it.”
 - It really makes a difference which harness, which yoke you put on
 - The yoke of slavery or the yoke of love and peace
 - Your choice, choose carefully

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