

Weekly Study Guide for August 10, 2025 | The Fruit of the Faith

Along with the first three contrasts we looked at last week, there is one more contrast between the Law and Love. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. Against this, there is no law. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” The law is a tutor that shows us our need for Christ. Let’s see what the Bible has to say about it!

Excerpts from Galatians 5:1-26

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. 2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. 3 Again, I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. 4 You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. 7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? 8 That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. 9 “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.”

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. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 If you bite and devour each other, watch out, or you will be destroyed by each other.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. 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.

References: [Galatians 5:1-26](#); [Exodus 20:1-17](#); [Mark 12:28-34](#); [Matthew 22:34-40](#); [Galatians 3:24](#); [1 John 4:7-21](#); [1 Corinthians 13:13](#)

Questions:

1. What does the law refer to? What does love refer to? How are the two connected?
2. What is true if you try to live according to the law? What is true if you try to be justified by the law?
3. How is the law fulfilled through the one command to “Love your neighbor as yourself?”
4. If you are led by the Spirit and produce the fruit of the Spirit, what is true regarding the law?
5. What is the law’s purpose of the Law? What does it mean to be justified by faith?

Summary: Galatians 5 presents a series of powerful contrasts—freedom versus bondage, Spirit versus flesh, fruit versus works, and love versus law—to highlight the transformative work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. Christ sets us free not for self-indulgence, but for a life of love and service, empowered by the Spirit to resist the destructive desires of the flesh. The passage emphasizes that true righteousness and spiritual maturity come not through external rituals or legalism, but through faith expressed in love and seen through the cultivation Spirit produced fruit. While the works of the flesh lead to division and destruction, the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, and more—reflects the life of Christ and fulfills the law through love. Ultimately, walking in the Spirit is the path to freedom, maturity, and abundant spiritual fruit.

- If you live by the law you are obligated to keep the whole law. Which is impossible.
- If you try to be justified by the law, you will fall from grace and alienate yourself from Christ. You abolish the offense of the cross and nullify the reason Christ had to go to the cross.
- The entire law is fulfilled in keeping the command to love your neighbor as yourself.
- If you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law.
- Against the fruit of the Spirit, namely love, there is no law.
- The law is our guardian leading us to Christ so that we might be justified by faith.

Reflection: Take time to prayerfully reflect on how this lesson applies to your life.

1. What is your vision of life? How do you see the world? How do you see God?
2. Are you bearing fruit in keeping with repentance? Is there the fruit of righteousness? Are you abounding with good fruit? In what ways do you limit God?
3. Is your soul prospering? Are you choosing life or death?
4. What did you learn from this lesson? What are some personal takeaways and insights you gained? How can you apply this to your life?