

**The Jesus Way: Building a Life of Christlike Relationships (Part 4)**  
*The Spirit-Filled Relational Life*  
Galatians 5:13–26

**Introduction:** The Holy Spirit empowers believers to reject selfishness and walk in love, patience, peace, and self-control—a relational transformation. Transformation is Spirit driven—it is not something we can manufacture or fake it until we make it. Spiritual transformation and maturity show up in how we treat others.

Today we're in Galatians 5:13–26, and this passage is straight talk about relational life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul says real transformation doesn't come from trying harder in the flesh. It only comes from walking in the Spirit.

**I. Freedom — Liberty that serves through love (vv. 13–15)**

**A. Called to liberty** — 5:13

1. Not liberty as “opportunity for the flesh” — 5:13 (Romans 6:1; 1 Peter 2:16)
2. Love fulfills the law — 5:14 (Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39–40; Romans 13:8–10)

**B. Warning:** biting/devouring consumes community — 5:15

*Caution: Don't become a Piranha kind of Christian or church!*

**II. Flesh — The enemy within and its relational fallout (vv. 5:16–21)**

**A. The Command:** “Walk in the Spirit” — 5:16

**B. The Conflict:** flesh vs Spirit — 5:17–18 (Romans 7:18; Romans 8:5–8)

**Guzik** likewise emphasizes it's a real battle—these desires don't peacefully coexist. (They are at war within us!)

**C. Works of the flesh listed** — 5:19–21

works of the flesh” are *relationship killers*.

And They are “*church-breaking sins*.” *They fracture friendships, families, ministries.*

**D. Warning:** those who practice such things — 5:21

**MacArthur notes** that these kinds of sins can appear in a believer's life, but if they are constant and unrestrained, they reflect the flesh “unmitigated.”

**It is natural** - the flesh dominates the unbelieving life, while sanctification should mean decreasing flesh patterns and increasing Spirit fruit

**III. Fruit — The Spirit's relational character in us (vv. 22–23)**

**A. Fruit of the Spirit:** love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control — 5:22–23

**Ferguson points out** Paul says “fruit,” not “fruits,” suggesting the graces belong together and grow on the same “tree.”

**Rogers loved to say** you won't find a “fruit factory”—you'll find an orchard. fruit can't be manufactured; it grows from a [Spirit filled] life.

**B. “Against such there is no law”** — 5:23

*you'll never get in trouble with God for being too kind, too patient, too gentle, too self-controlled.* (John 15:5 (bearing fruit); Ephesians 5:18 (Spirit-filled living))

**IV. Follow — Crucify the flesh and keep in step (vv. 24–26)**

**A. Crucified the flesh** — 5:24

*This means our flesh no longer gets to run the show!*

**B. Live by the Spirit; walk in the Spirit** — 5:25

**Piper explains the logic:** *if our new life began by the Spirit, then our ongoing life must be carried out by the Spirit's enabling power.*

**C. Guard community:** no conceit, provoking, envying — 5:26

*The Spirit-filled relational life is not a hype-filled emotional life.*

*It is a humble, dependent, obedient life where the Spirit produces a new way of treating people.*

**Conclusion:** This fruit is developed in us and can show up even in our most challenging relationship this week. Ask the Spirit daily to continue to grow His fruit in you Then we must act in obedience when the moment comes.