



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Study to show "The Way of True Life." Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: **God's Design Restored**
TEXT: **Galatians 5:13-26**

Instructions: - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone can participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: One of the most heart-warming scenes ever filmed by news cameras shows hundreds of prisoners streaming from German concentration camps at the end of World War II. Few people have ever savored their freedom as much as those people did. They knew what had happened to thousands of their fellow prisoners at the hands of the Nazis. Thank God for the freedom the Holy Spirit brings to everyone who has repented and trusted the Lord Jesus. Ask God to teach you how to appropriate the Holy Spirit's power to overcome sin and live to please God.

Part of the good news of Jesus Christ is that we can be set free from something far worse than a concentration camp - our old sinful ways of living. We are liberated to live under the control and direction of the Holy Spirit. We are free to enjoy the beautiful oneness of God's original design for us. Read Galatians 5:13-26.

1. Encourage each person to complete the sentence, "True freedom is" Try to reach a consensus on a definition of freedom.
2. What attitudes and actions are contrasted in this passage?
3. What two possible uses of freedom can a Christian make (v. 13)?
4. How do you face the temptation in marriage to be self-centered rather than serving your spouse in love?
5. Besides being selfish, Paul also cites the danger of verbal abuse (v. 15). How might a husband or wife destroy each other by verbally biting and devouring?
6. A husband or wife may work long hours to serve the family's physical and material needs. But the other spouse may view this "service" as neglecting time together. How can a husband and wife help understand what communicates loving service to them?
7. God promises that we can avoid being controlled by our sinful nature if we make the right choices. What do the choices in verses 16, 18, and 25 look like in daily life?

8. How are these acts of our sinful nature destructive to our personality and marriages (vs. 19-21, 22-23)?

9. What choices can we make to avoid falling into these sins or to get free from any that control us?

10. In contrast to the acts of our sinful nature, how does the fruit of the Spirit express the characteristics of God (vs. 22-23)?

11. How have you seen the fruit of the Spirit demonstrated in the lives of husbands and wives you know?

12. Paul instructs us positively to keep in step with the Spirit (v. 25) and negatively not to become conceited, provoking, and envying each other (v. 26). What family tensions would be relieved by obeying these commands?

13. God's beautiful design for marriage can be ours today despite the damage sin has done. What encouragement and instruction do you find in this passage to help you serve one another in love by the power of the Holy Spirit?