

# Sermon Study Guide



## #8: The War Within

Law & Liberty: Experiencing Freedom in Christ

November 15, 2020 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

*In this series we will study the book of Galatians to see that the one true Gospel—the Gospel of Jesus Christ—provides a balance between rules and law and freedom and grace.*

### Reflect

How would you define freedom? In your own situation, what freedom do you wish you had?

### Read and Discuss

#### Scripture

Galatians 5:16-26

#### Discussion Questions

Christian freedom is freedom *from* sin, not freedom to sin. You may already know this but find it challenging to live out because of your sin nature. The apostle Paul addresses how we can find victory over our sin nature to express Christian freedom. Read Galatians 5:16-26.

1. **Rely on the Spirit. He is your enablement (v. 16-18).** Your salvation is secured when you trust in the Lord Jesus as your Savior through faith alone. What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit at the moment of your salvation? Why should you walk and rely on the Spirit in your spiritual walk? But why, in spite of the security of your salvation and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, do you as a Christian still fall into sin? What kind of war does Paul talk about that is raging inside all of those who have trusted in Christ? Why is it so important to recognize the two warring natures that you have in your life? What should you do so that your new nature can defeat the old nature in you?
2. **Identify what sin looks like (v. 19-21).** Paul gave a list of the “works of the flesh” that Christians do, which do not conform to a character filled with the Holy Spirit. Identify

those sins. How did Paul group together these sins? Are Christians capable of committing any of those sins? Why is Paul’s list incomplete (v. 21)? What does the list of sins warn us to avoid? What is the admonition at the end of verse 21 and what does it mean?

3. **Develop the fruit of the spirit in your life (v. 22-23).** These verses characterize a Christian who is Spirit-filled and is evidence that one is walking in the Spirit. Is the fruit talked about in these verses naturally produced in Christian life? How can this fruit grow in a person’s life the same way fruit grows on a tree? What are the three characteristics that the fruit of the spirit speak of? Is there a certain limit of how this fruit should manifest in your life? What happens if you live out the fruit of the Spirit?
4. **Enter the battle with victory in mind (v. 24-26).** Having placed your faith in Christ doesn’t eradicate your sin nature, but now you have a means to overcome them with the Spirit’s help. How do you know that evil is alive and active in the world? Why is it important that in a spiritual battle, you should have victory in mind? What makes you already victorious in this kind of war?

### Respond

**In Walk:** Examine your life through the lens of Scripture: Are you seeing the character of the Holy Spirit growing in your life? What can you do to nurture the fruit of the Spirit so that your growth will not be stifled?

**In Prayer:** Heavenly Father, I thank You that although my old sinful nature is still in me, You have given me a new nature when I have believed in Jesus Christ as my Savior. Thank You for the Holy Spirit Who enables me to defeat the old nature in me. May Your Spirit help me to grow in my faith and produce fruit that will diminish the power and influence of sin in my life. In Jesus Name. Amen.