**Galatians 5:13-26**

Living by the Spirit

**Introduction**

**Question:** Do you value freedom from rules? Why?

If Christ has set us free, then why not live as we please? Why not grab all the money, sex and power we can get? Afterward, we can simply ask for forgiveness! Paul challenges this kind of thinking with the true meaning of Christian freedom.

**Galatians 5:13-21**

**Question:** From your understanding of Paul’s letter so far, how would you define “freedom” (v. 13)?

**Question:** Why didn’t God just tell Israel to love, instead of giving the Law in the first place? Why would a Christian want to read the Law if love is a better way (v. 14)?

**Question:** Why did Paul use the imagery of people biting and devouring each other (v. 15)? What was he trying to imply?

**Question:** Verse 17 states that the desires of the flesh go against the Spirit. What are some of the struggles you still have? Why do you think you have those struggles?

**Question:** Why is a person not under law if he or she is led by the Spirit (v. 18)?

**Question:** How can Paul’s warning in verse 21 be reconciled with his emphasis on justification by faith?

**Galatians 5:22-26**

**Question:** Why is fruit a good description of the Spirit’s work in us?

**Question:** What did Paul mean when he said, “against such things there is no law” (v. 23)?

**Question:** Paul assumes that even though all Christians live by the Spirit, we do not always keep in step with the Spirit (vv. 24-26). In what ways do you struggle to keep in step with the Spirit?

**Reflection**

Would you say you are led by the Spirit? How can you become more dependent on the Spirit to direct you?