**5 1**For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

**2**Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. **3**Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. **4**You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. **5**For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. **6**For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

**7**You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? **8**Such persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. **9**A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough. **10**I am confident about you in the Lord that you will not think otherwise. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. **11**But my friends, why am I still being persecuted if I am still preaching circumcision? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. **12**I wish those who unsettle you would castrate themselves!

**13**For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. **14**For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **15**If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

**16**Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. **17**For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. **18**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. **19**Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, **20**idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, **21**envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**22**By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, **23**gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. **24**And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25**If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. **26**Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.