

INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD (#01)

Request: “Could you explain what Paul meant by ‘shall not inherit the kingdom of God’ in Gal.5:21?”

To answer this question properly, will require two lessons:

- The first lesson will require studying the hermeneutic law of context of Galatians 5.
- The second lesson will require studying the doctrinal specifics of the question that was asked.

FYI: We are presently studying a series of lessons on Wednesday night that would be helpful on this subject entitled, Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The Book of Galatians was written to address the conflict within the early church between doctrine of legalism and the doctrine of grace.

(Introduction to Galatians, pg.1123, NAS Open Bible) “Paul gave to the Church a mighty polemic against the Judaizing error.”

Paul’s Point: “I do not nullify the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.” (Gal.2:21)

The doctrinal theme of chapter 5 is “Spiritual Freedom” (Gal.5:1, 13). Two important grace doctrines are under assault.

- Spiritual freedom resulting gospel of grace salvation was under assault by gospel of works salvation (Gal.5:1-12; 1:6-9/ circumcision).
- Spiritual freedom resulting from grace spirituality of indwelling Holy Spirit was under assault by works spirituality of keeping the Law (Gal.5:13-26/ 18, 21, 23).

We are told in Gal.5:1-26 that you cannot inherit the kingdom of God by works of the Law whether by salvation or by spirituality. This is the theme of Galatians and chapter 5.

This lesson will study four aspects of the importance of the hermeneutic law (science of interpretation) of context which is important to the request.

1. We will begin by examining Paul explanation of Mosaic Law’s failure to control our sinful nature (OSN) and to produce spirituality on basis of grace (100% God) and (0% believer) by the following five homiletical points.

Gal.5:13-15	Watch-out (blepo / p.a.impv.2pl)	Indulging the lust of OSN rather than IHS
Gal.5:16	Walk (peripateo / p.a.impv.2pl)	Indwelling Holy Spirit verses inherent sin (OSN)
Gal.5:17-18	Warfare	Internal opposition between OSN and IHS
Gal.5:19-23	Warning	Independent works of OSN or fruit of HIS
Gal.5:24-26	Winning	Initiate living and walking by the Spirit

Notice the importance of the context (Gal.5:13-26) [spirituality] from which our question comes (Gal.5:19-21). This is the importance of the hermeneutic law of context.

2. The Southern Galatians churches (Gal.1:2) were in conflict with two legalistic doctrines that were attacking grace ‘spiritual freedom’ (Book of Galatians, and especially chapter 5).

(Gal.5:1-2) Legalism was preaching false mechanics to salvation:

- **Believe the gospel** (1 Cor.15:3-4) **and be circumcised in order to be saved** (Acts 15:1, 11; Gal.1:6-9; 2:4, 16; Eph.2:8-9).
- **Keep the law in order to be spiritual** (Gal.5:13-26) (Gal.2:18-21; 3:1-5, 11-14, 24; 5:16-18).

As grace believers, we are still fighting these same two legalistic doctrines today.

3. There are actually three groups of believers within the church today.

- One group of believers support a lascivious concept of unrestrained lust gratification of their flesh, as a norm and standard of the CWL, having the liberty to do so while confessing their sin (1 John 1:9).
- Another group of legalistic believers is offended by the first and attack them as undisciplined and unrestrained in their indulgence of their flesh, having a license to sin.
 - The legalistic believers support the concept of keeping the OSN in restraint by self-discipline of the Law. Obeying the Law keeps them walking the straight and narrow path of self-righteousness. However, this offends both groups of the grace liberty believers as a works system of spirituality.
- Then another group, the mature, Grace Believer is offended because they view the behavior of the first group as immature and carnal and the second as operating under a works system of spirituality.

Unfortunately two of these three groups are wrong as to the mechanics of controlling the OSN from producing personal sins. They are serving themselves through the flesh and false belief system (OMCD) rather than serving Christ through indwelling Holy Spirit and divine viewpoint of NMDV.

(Gal.5:13-16, 24-26; Eph.4:22-24). They reflect the two sons of Luke 15:11-32 (Rom.8:4).

The Law does not empower the believer but rather enslaves him (Rom.3:19-21, 28; 4:4; 7:14-25).

4. The Church Age Believer (CAB) is free to gratify his OSN, but not without consequences, like grieving and quenching the indwelling Holy Spirit and divine discipline from the Father.

- Grieving Holy Spirit (Eph.4:30)
- Quenching the Holy Spirit (1 Thess.5:19)
- Divine discipline (Heb.12:5-11; 1 John 5:16)

Personal sin is only an issue to believers because it results in carnality (works of flesh) (1 Cor.3:1-3; Rom.13:13-14; James 1:14-15; 1 John 1:9).

Carnality can result in a vicious and degenerate type of behavior (Gal.5:13-15, 24-26; 2 Cor.12:20-21 Col.3:5-14; 1 Thess.4:3-8).

Spirituality is the result of walking by means of the Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16).

The Indwelling ministry of the Holy Spirit empowers and spiritually frees the Believer on the basis of grace (Rom.8:1-17)