

## Galatians 5:7-15

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 <sup>7</sup> You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying  
2 the truth? <sup>8</sup> This persuasion is not from him who calls you.  
3 <sup>9</sup> A little leaven leavens the whole lump. <sup>10</sup> I have  
4 confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view,  
5 and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty,  
6 whoever he is. <sup>11</sup> But if I, brothers, still preach  
7 circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case  
8 the offense of the cross has been removed. <sup>12</sup> I wish those  
9 who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

10 <sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not  
11 use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but  
12 through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is  
13 fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as  
14 yourself.” <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, watch  
15 out that you are not consumed by one another.

**How would you explore this passage?**

- To understand it yourself?
- To explain it to someone?
- To lead others through it?

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The questions on the back provide ideas for observation, interpretation, and application..

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**Observation (What does it say?):**

What do you notice in this passage?

**Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

After observing the passage, what questions do you have?

**Application (What does it mean for me?):**

How might the passage affect you? How might you help others see application to their lives?

**Additional questions for thought and discussion:**

- Why the proverbial warning about leaven in verse 9?
- How does Paul's "confidence in the Lord" (v. 10) affect your thinking about speaking into the lives of others?
- Why would Paul even suggest the idea that he was advocating ("preaching") circumcision (v. 11)?
- Is verse 15 a generic warning about being nice, or might Paul have in mind a particular type of biting, devouring, and consuming one another?
- How might a Soul Care approach help avoid the biting and devouring in verse 15?

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## Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

### Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

### Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

### Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures,  
but draw everything from them,  
and suffer nothing to remain  
hidden that is really in them.  
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**