

What do YOU think...

is abortion from this?

Love
Joy
Peace
Patience
Kindness
Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-control

fruit of the Spirit

or from this?

Sexual immorality
Impurity
Idolatry
Witchcraft
Hatred
Jealousy
Anger
Selfish ambition
Dissensions
Divisions
Envy
Drunkenness
Carousing

deeds of the flesh

In Galatians 5, the Apostle Paul used contrasting lists to show how good it is to walk in freedom – in line with God’s Holy Spirit – as opposed to being in bondage to our own fleshly lusts.¹

If we’re honest, we’ll admit abortion has everything to do with “deeds of the flesh” and nothing with “fruit of the Spirit.” It often results from sexual sin, substance abuse, or a lack of self-control compounded by fear, anger, jealousy, and the break-up of relationships.

Some believe abortion frees people to enjoy life, and that women who lack access to it are *oppressed*. They laugh when Christians say God created life, that abortion is murder, that purity means sex should only be enjoyed in marriage, and that biblical marriage is between one man and one woman for life.

It’s hard to be objects of scorn,² but we can fortify ourselves with Paul’s great declaration of liberty in Galatians 5:1 –

Christ has set us free!

This is good news. Sin is the problem, and *Jesus Christ* – not abortion – is the answer. Contrary to what abortion advocates say, it is *sin* that enslaves while Jesus’ sacrificial death and victorious resurrection set sinners free.³

Sin enslaves. In Christ we are truly free!

Deliverance from sin is a free gift for all who believe in Jesus. No matter what you’ve done, call on Him and be saved.⁴

Not only are Christians freed from the just penalty for sin (death), but we’re helped daily by the Holy Spirit to overcome sinful desires. A pure walk helps us escape the bondage that sinful living brings – including entanglements like abortion.⁵ If you struggle with this or any other sin, talk to a pastor or Christian friend.

Live in freedom!

It’s impossible to free ourselves by pretending sin doesn’t exist, or that it’s no big deal. 1 John 1:8-9 says we must *confess* our sins and ask Jesus to cleanse and forgive us. That’s the only way to be truly free.

Life Matters
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Photo credit: Jamie Geysbeek Photography. Endnotes: 1) Galatians 5:19-23; see also Mark 7:20-23. 2) Psalm 1:1; Acts 13:41; Jude 17-19. 3) Luke 4:18; John 8:34-36. 4) Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23, 10:13. 5) Rom. 8:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-9.