We now start to really get to the heart of what Christian freedom actually looks like. We have not graduated from the Law in order to indulge our sinful desires – this is what the world thinks freedom is, but real freedom is actually found in serving others – which was the actual intention of the Law in the first place.

There is a war within each of us, between the desires of our sinful flesh and the Holy Spirit. And true freedom (and victory over sin itself) is found only through the strength He provides.

The acts of the flesh are exhibited in many forms v19-21 (and this list is just for starters). But in contrast, the fruit of the Spirit (the character that He grows in us) comes as a complete package.

When we walk with (v16), live by and keep in step with (v25) the Holy Spirit, this godly character will flavour everything we do.

**Big Idea:** The life of true freedom is one lived in a constant, close walk with our Master

**Q** What are some false ideas about “freedom” that people buy into?

**Q** How does v13-15 refute those ideas?

**Q** What is the battle that Paul describes in v16-18? How is that battle won? (v16)

**Q** What does v21 mean?

**Q** Why do you think this section is sandwiched between Paul’s warnings v15 and v26?
LOVE

Love heads the list of attributes that describe the Fruit of the Spirit. But the way we commonly use the word “love” is very different from the love of God that ought to characterise a child of God. The love of the world around us is largely based on feelings (an infatuation) and it is rarely given without requiring something in return. But the love of God is expressed through an act of the will, not just when we feel like it. It is a love even for the unlovely, is acts when it sees a need and it is sacrificial, even to the point of laying down one’s life. We cannot grow this kind of love by ourselves. But God grows it in His children as every day they remember His love for them, trust Him and put themselves out in loving service for one another.

Q How is love portrayed in popular culture? (Give some examples).

Q How is this different from the way that God loves?

Read 1 John 3:10-18 and 1 John 4:7-21

Q What does John hold up as the most vivid example of God’s love? (3:16, 4:10-11) Why should this be a powerful motivation for us to love each other?

Q What examples does John give of the absence of love?

Q What do you think are some counterfeit versions of love that we might be tricked into thinking are the real thing?

Q How do we grow this part of “the fruit”? What practical action will you take?