



Westside Baptist Church Bulletin

July 20, 2025
6th Sunday after
Pentecost

Speaker: Pastor Mark Wong

During Worship

- ▶ Be still and prepare your heart for worship.
- ▶ Please close the main hall doors gently during worship services.
- ▶ Please take care of your personal belongings to avoid theft.

Offering

- ▶ Welcome to donate via E-transfer, email: westsidebaptistoffering@gmail.com
- ▶ To donate by cash or cheque, please use an offering envelope and put it into the offering bag during worship.
- ▶ When making a donation, please indicate your donation envelope number and your full legal name. The offering envelope number can be obtained from the church office.

Notes to CitRUs parents:

- ▶ The enrollment age for CitRUs Children's Ministry starts from age 3; one parent can accompany children under 3 to participate in worship in Room B.
- ▶ Classes are held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am at Room E & F.
- ▶ Please supervise your children after you have picked them up from the classroom.

Parking

- ▶ The upstairs parking lot (Parking Lot 1) is designated for new comers, people with reduced mobility, the elderly and families with young children.
- ▶ The indoor parking lot downstairs (Parking Lot 2) will be closed at 1:00 pm on Sundays. Afterwards, you will have to wait until 10:00 am on Tuesday morning to collect your vehicle.
- ▶ Additional parking spaces are available at 8508 Ash Street (Parking Lot 3) on Saturdays from 4:00 - 7:00pm and Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Maps are available in the foyer.
- ▶ To be considerate of our neighbors, please do not park in the residential area.
- ▶ When parking in the outdoor parking lot downstairs (Parking Lot 2), please be careful not to block the emergency exits and keep a distance of 3 feet from the building's exterior wall so that the emergency exit doors can be fully opened.
- ▶ Please park and lock your bike/e-bike outside. Do not park the bike inside the building.
- ▶ Congregants are required to register online annually to park at the church or 8508 Ash during worship services. Registration link: <https://forms.gle/TDSft5sAJgk5QMeN8>



Scripture Reading Plan

- ▶ As we complete our journey through the book of Acts, we come to the opening chapters of 1 Corinthians, where Paul addresses deep divisions within the church, urging believers to center their faith not on human leaders but on the crucified Christ, whose wisdom far surpasses worldly understanding. He reminds them that the gospel is a paradox: foolishness to the world, but the power of God to those being saved. Paul confronts their spiritual immaturity. He reorients their identity as God's field and building, urging them to build wisely on the foundation of Christ. Paul also challenges their pride and boasting, reminding them that Christian leadership is marked by humility and servanthood. Furthermore, Paul rebukes their tolerance of sexual immorality and their habit of taking fellow believers to court, emphasizing the

call to holiness and the reality that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Altogether, these chapters call the church to live out its new identity in Christ with unity, purity, and reverence.

- ▶ Reading Plan for this week:
 - ▶ July 20 (Sunday): Galatians 6:1-18
 - ▶ July 21 (Monday): Acts 20:1-12
 - ▶ July 22 (Tuesday): 1 Corinthians 1:1-31
 - ▶ July 23 (Wednesday): 1 Corinthians 2:1-16
 - ▶ July 24 (Thursday): 1 Corinthians 3:1-23
 - ▶ July 25 (Friday): 1 Corinthians 4:1-21
 - ▶ July 26 (Saturday): 1 Corinthians 5:1-12
 - ▶ July 27 (Sunday): 1 Corinthians 6:1-20

Co·Mission

34. Freedom to Love

[Galatians 5:13-26]

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. [Galatians 5:24]

Sermon Outline**Introduction: Reimagining Freedom**

- ▶ Pop culture tells us freedom means doing whatever we want.
- ▶ But Paul challenges this: Freedom in Christ is not the absence of constraint—it's the presence of love.
- ▶ Key verse: *"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh..."* (Gal. 5:13)

The Nature of Gospel Freedom**Galatians 5:13–15**

- ▶ Gospel freedom is not selfish liberty but self-giving love.
- ▶ Freedom is a calling, not just a gift.
- ▶ Love becomes the expression of freedom, not the enemy of it.
- ▶ Illustration: Using freedom to serve, not to consume.

Reflection Question: In what ways have you used freedom to serve or to indulge?

The Battle Within**Galatians 5:16–18**

- ▶ The Spirit and the flesh are in conflict.
- ▶ You will never drift into Christlikeness—transformation requires cooperation with the Spirit.
- ▶ John Mark Comer: *"There is an evil not only out there, but in here in my own soul."*

Reflection Question: Where do you feel the battle between the Spirit and the flesh in your everyday life?

My Reflection

- ▶ What did God tell me through the message today?

The Works of the Flesh vs. The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:19–23

- ▶ Paul contrasts two ways of life: Self-centered vs. Spirit-formed.
- ▶ The fruit of the Spirit is not a checklist—it's a character profile of Jesus formed in us by the Spirit.
- ▶ Dallas Willard: *"The fruit of the Spirit is the automatic outflow of living connected to Jesus."*

Reflection Question: Which fruit of the Spirit do you long to see more of in your life right now?

Crucified Flesh, Resurrected Life

Galatians 5:24–25

- ▶ Those who belong to Christ crucify the flesh—not just restrain it.
- ▶ Walking in the Spirit is about everyday choices rooted in a deeper reality: "You are not who you used to be."
- ▶ Comer: *"Freedom is the ability to want the right thing, to will the right thing, and to do the right thing."*

Reflection Question: What does it look like for you to "keep in step with the Spirit" this week?

Conclusion: Freedom That Looks Like Love

- ▶ True freedom doesn't make you more selfish—it makes you more loving.
- ▶ Freedom is not just the absence of rules, it's the presence of the Spirit.
- ▶ When we walk by the Spirit, we don't just do loving things—we become loving people.

My Reflection

- ▶ What did God tell me through the message today?

My Prayer Response

- ▶ Write down your responsive prayer for God's word today.

My Action Response

- ▶ What changes will you make in response to God's word today?

Small Group Discussions

Opener: Getting Real

1. When you hear the word “freedom,” what’s the first image or idea that comes to mind?
 - ▶ How has culture shaped that view?
2. Describe a time when you felt “free”—was that freedom rooted in love or in self-expression? What was the result?

Freedom Reimagined (Galatians 5:13–15)

3. Paul says, “Do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh. Rather, serve one another humbly in love.”
 - ▶ What does it look like to use freedom to serve in your stage of life (school, work, family, dating, etc.)?
4. John Stott said, “Christian liberty is service, not selfishness.”
 - ▶ In what areas of life is that idea most challenging for you?

The Inner Battle (Galatians 5:16–18)

5. Where do you feel the tension between your “flesh” and the “Spirit” most clearly?
 - ▶ What are some of the habits, environments, or relationships that pull you in either direction?
6. **Tim Keller said, “This isn’t a call to try harder—it’s a call to surrender better.”**
 - ▶ What does surrender look like for you in this season?

When the Flesh Leads (Galatians 5:19–21)

7. Read the list of “acts of the flesh” together.
 - ▶ Which ones do you think are most normalized or even celebrated in our culture?
 - ▶ How have you seen these play out in relationships or online life?
8. **Why do you think Paul’s warning here is so intense? (“Those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.”)**
 - ▶ How does this reflect God’s heart—not just His rules?

When the Spirit Leads (Galatians 5:22–25)

9. Which of the fruit of the Spirit do you long to grow in right now? Why?
10. John Mark Comer says, “Willpower will never be enough—we need the Holy Spirit.”
 - ▶ How are you intentionally making space for the Spirit’s work in your life (through prayer, community, confession, etc.)?

Reflection & Prayer

11. What would it look like for your group to be marked by the fruit of the Spirit?
 - ▶ Is there someone you need to forgive, serve, or encourage this week?

Announcements

- ▶ The **Semi-annual Congregational Meeting** will take place on July 20 at 2:00 PM in the main hall. Members are kindly requested to attend on time. The agenda is as follow:
 1. Pastoral Report
 2. Introduction of the new Church Clerk and Treasurer
 3. Semi-annual financial report
 4. Calling of Assistant Pastor
 - Motion: Call Joseph Ng to be Assistant Pastor
 5. Any Other Business
- ▶ **July monthly bulletin** has been posted on the church website and the bulletin board. Please refer to it for important notices.
- ▶ If you have not received your **offering statement** for the first half of 2025, please contact the church office. The statement was sent out via email last week.
- ▶ The **short-term mission** team to Bolivia will be serving from August 21 to September 1. They are currently fundraising for this mission trip. Brothers and sisters, please show your enthusiastic support. Fundraising link: <https://bolivia.causevox.com/>
- ▶ Registration for **CitRUs and GZone for the 2025-2026** school year has begun! Make sure you understand about the new programs before you register:
 - ▶ Registration for CitRUs: <https://forms.gle/UYYWHEbsJq3NuB4eA>
 - ▶ Registration for GZone: <https://forms.gle/BXTBwubMWkbGR7tL8>
- ▶ **CitRUs Friday Stage** Time production team is currently recruiting church members who are interested in serving in this ministry. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pastor Alan Yu.
- ▶ The church is joining Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) to participate the **Active In Mission**, supporting food aid programs in 14 countries, including Canada. This year’s national fundraising goal is CAD \$100,000. There are 20 fundraisers from WBC this year. Please donate on the individual participant’s page: <https://www.activeinmission.ca/t/wbc> Donations are eligible for a tax receipt issued by CBM.
- ▶ A **BBQ event** will be held on July 27 (Sunday) between 11:00am - 2:00pm at Riverfront Park. All are welcome to join. If you decided to join, please complete the online consent form at <https://forms.gle/WX18qkuEgCAMcmuh8>

