

SIF

Suzhou International Fellowship

The
FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

GALATIANS 5:22-23

LOVE

Jan. 8, 2023

Outline



1. Recap of Part I
2. Law vs Freedom
3. Fruit as a METAPHOR
4. The Imperatives

A pair of hands is shown holding a bunch of blueberries. The hands are positioned at the top and bottom of the frame, with the blueberries in the center. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white. A purple banner with white and yellow text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Why was '**Galatians**' written?

The prerequisite(s) for Salvation

Sola fidei

(faith in Jesus alone)

VS

**Jesus
+
Mosaic Law**

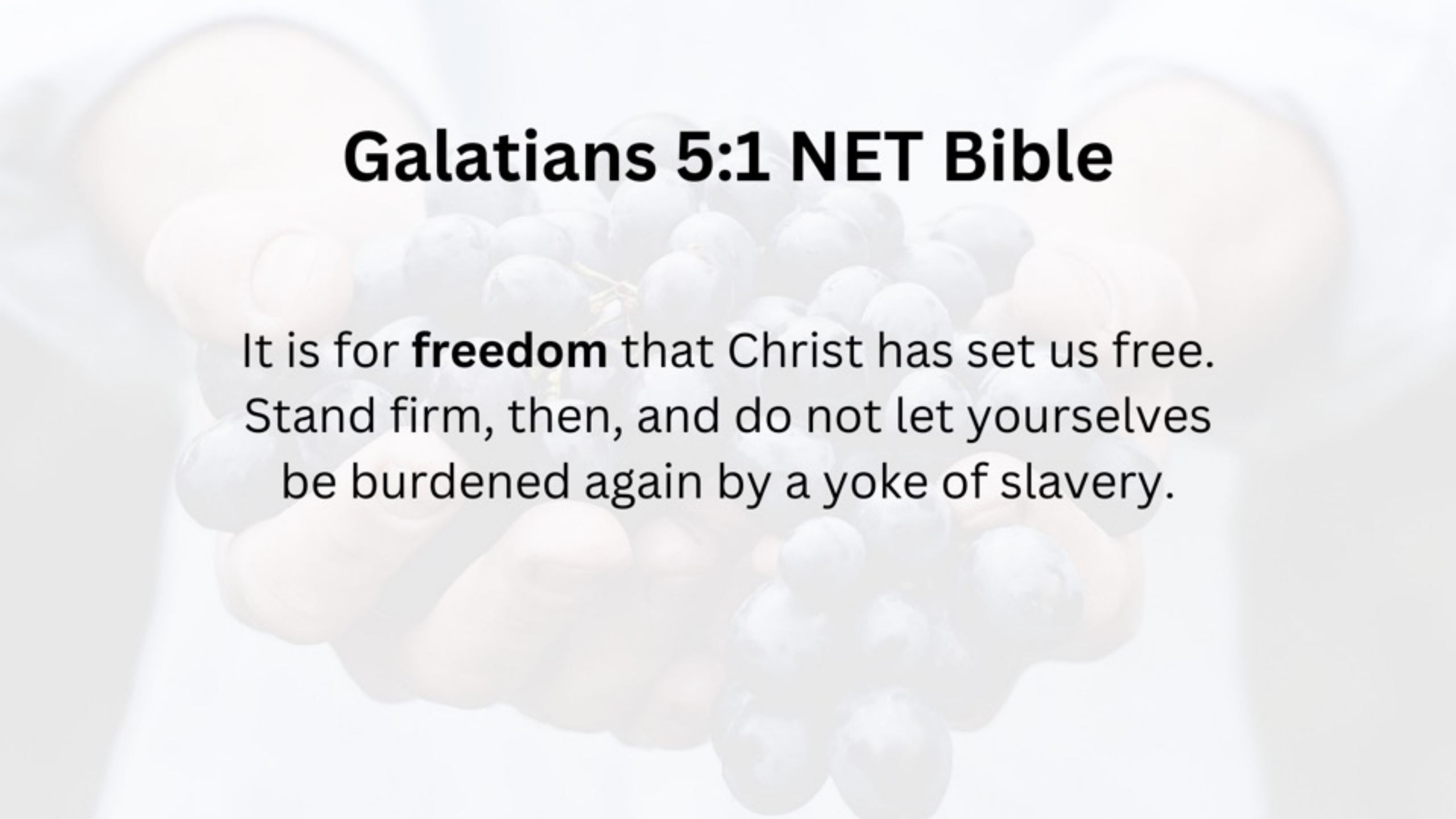
Why the Doctrine of **Salvation** is important

Ephesians 4:13-14 NET Bible

until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge** of the Son of God--**a mature person**, attaining to the measure of Christ's full stature. So we are no longer to be children, tossed back and forth by waves and carried about by **every wind of teaching by the trickery of people who craftily carry out their deceitful schemes.**

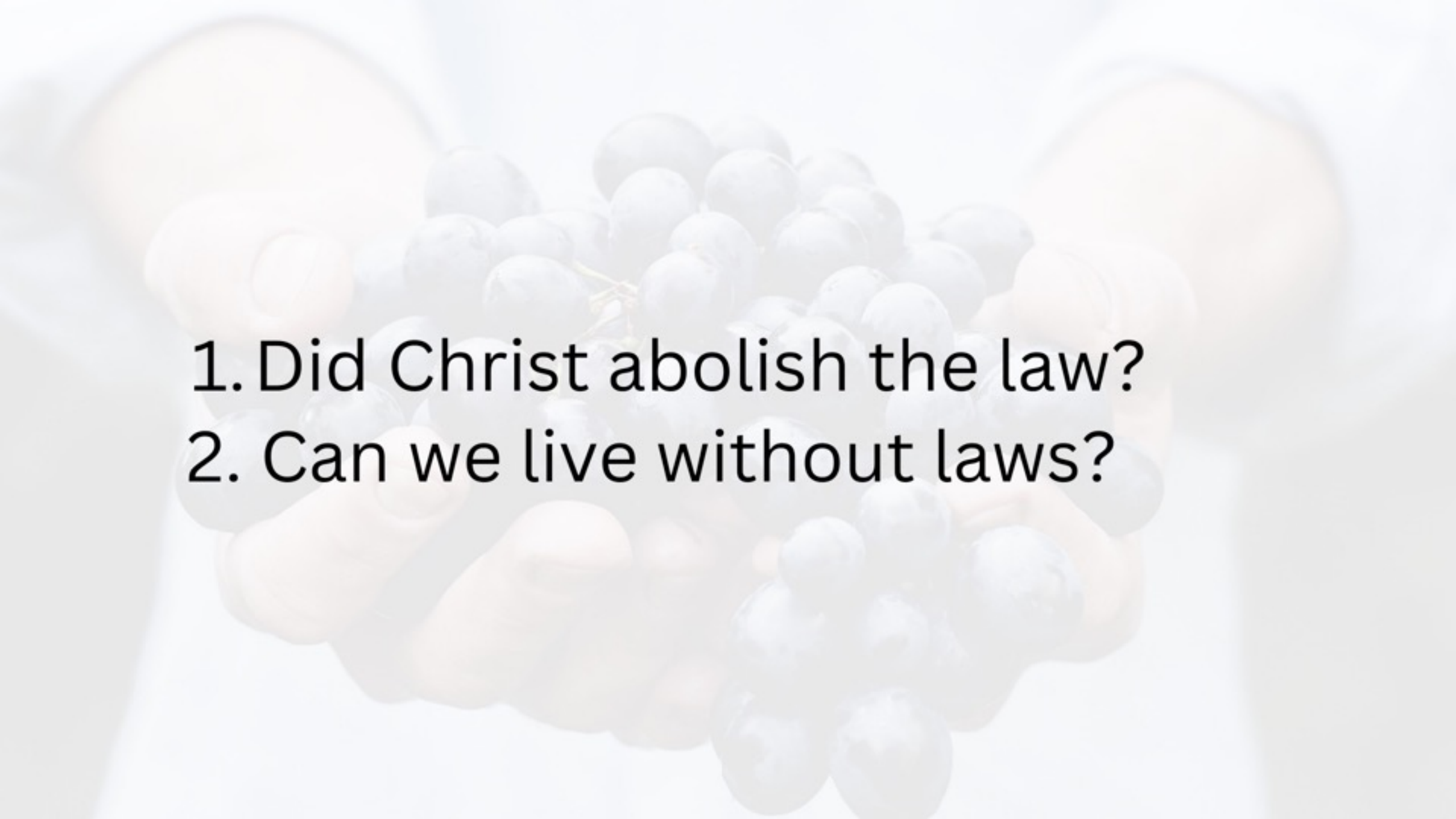
A pair of hands is shown holding a bunch of blueberries. The hands are positioned at the top and bottom of the frame, with the blueberries in the center. A purple rectangular banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Law vs Freedom". The word "Law" is in white, and "vs Freedom" is in yellow. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue and white.

Law vs Freedom

A pair of hands, one on the left and one on the right, are shown holding a bunch of blueberries. The hands are positioned as if presenting the fruit. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. The text is overlaid on the image.

Galatians 5:1 NET Bible

It is for **freedom** that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

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- A pair of hands, one on the left and one on the right, are shown holding a large bunch of blueberries. The hands are positioned as if presenting the fruit. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.
1. Did Christ abolish the law?
 2. Can we live without laws?

Order



Expats




Marker of Distinction



Matthew 5:17-20 (ESV)

“Do not think that I have come to **abolish the Law** or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to **fulfill** them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

A pair of hands holding a bunch of blueberries, symbolizing freedom and life. The background is a soft, out-of-focus image of the hands and berries, with a light, airy feel.

Romans 8:2 (ESV)


For the **law of the Spirit of life** has set you free
in Christ Jesus from the **law of sin and death.**

Romans 7:1-6 (ESV)

Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is **binding** on a person only as long as he lives? For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

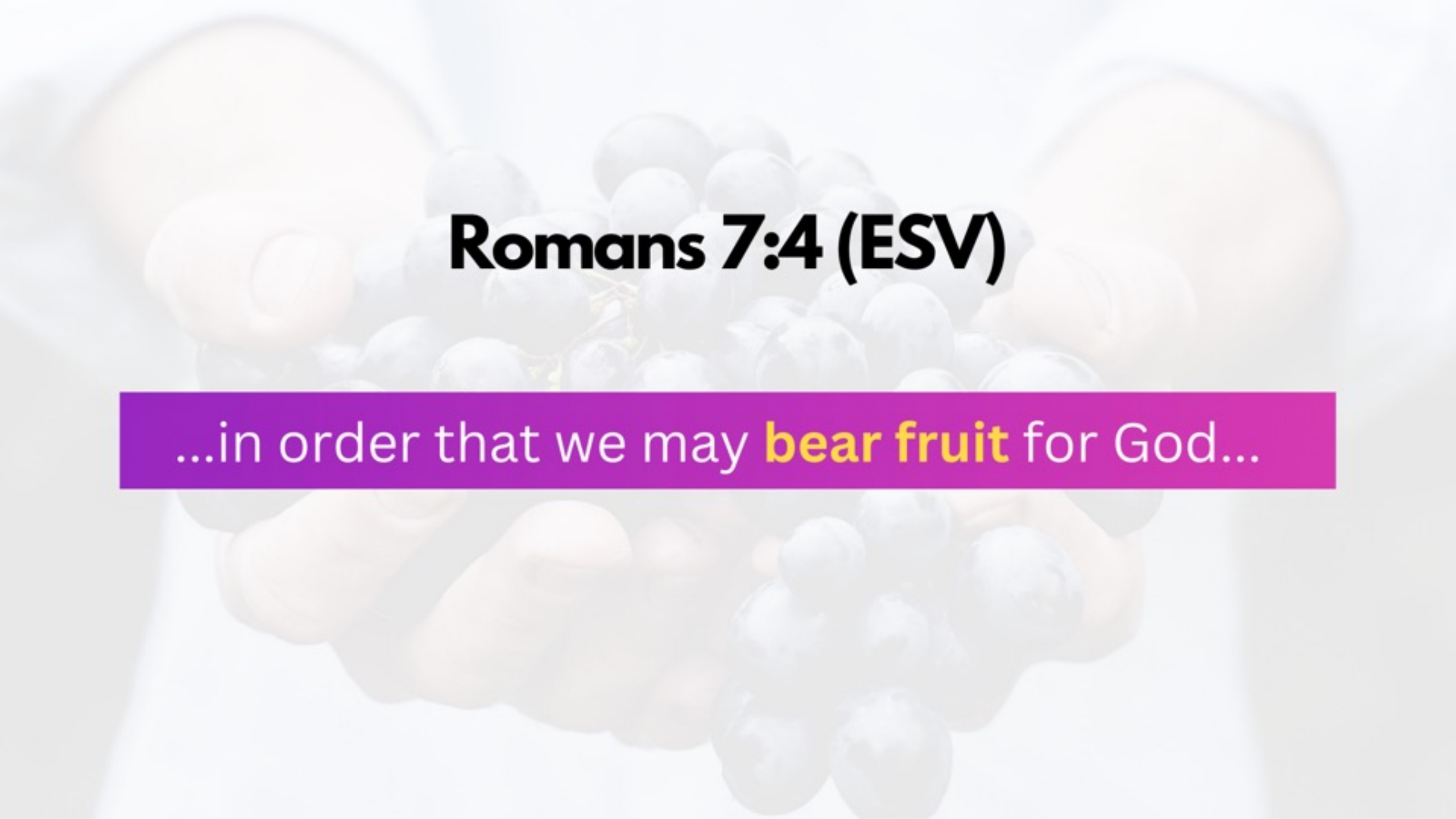
Romans 7:1-6 cont'd (ESV)

Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, **in order that we may bear fruit for God**. For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that **we serve in the new way of the Spirit** and not in the old way of the written code.

A pair of hands holding a bunch of blueberries, symbolizing life and freedom. The background is a soft, out-of-focus image of the hands and fruit.

Romans 8:2 (ESV)

For the **law of the Spirit of life** has set you **free** in Christ Jesus from the **law of sin and death**.



Romans 7:4 (ESV)

...in order that we may **bear fruit** for God...



Fruit as a **METAPHOR**

Metaphor for an Identifier

Matthew 7:15-20 (NET)

“Watch out for false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are voracious wolves. You will recognize them by their **fruit**. Grapes are not gathered from thorns or figs from thistles, are they? In the same way, every good **tree** bears good fruit, but the bad **tree** bears bad fruit. A good tree is not able to bear bad fruit, nor a bad tree to bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **So then, you will recognize them by their fruit.**

Seed

1 Peter 1:23 (NASB)

for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable, but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.



Luke 8:11 (NIV)

“This is the meaning of the parable: The **seed** is the **word of God**.

Matthew 13:19 (NIV)

"the message about the kingdom..."

Galatians 5:1,6,13-15 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery...The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

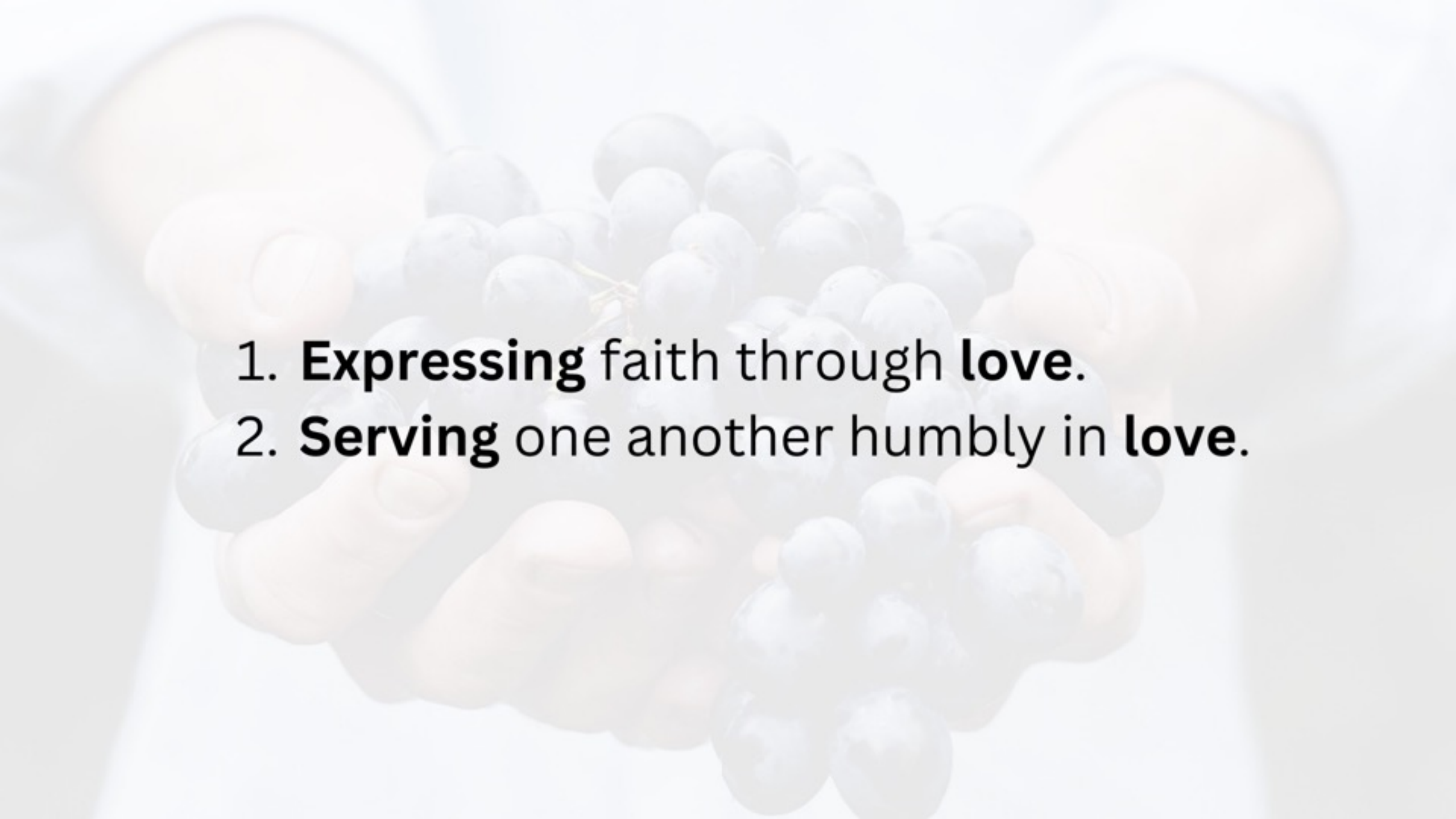
For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: **“Love your neighbor as yourself.”** If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Galatians 5:22-26 (NIV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. **Against such things there is no law.** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

A pair of hands is shown from a top-down perspective, gently cupping a large quantity of fresh blueberries. The hands are positioned symmetrically on either side of the berries, with fingers slightly curled. The blueberries are vibrant and appear to have a natural bloom. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color, possibly a white surface or a bright, diffused light source, which makes the hands and berries stand out. A semi-transparent purple rectangular box is overlaid in the center of the image, containing the title text in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

The Imperatives

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- A pair of hands is shown holding a bunch of blueberries. The hands are positioned on either side of the bunch, with fingers gently gripping the stems. The blueberries are dark and clustered together. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color, possibly a white shirt or a plain wall. The overall image has a clean, minimalist aesthetic.
1. **Expressing** faith through **love**.
 2. **Serving** one another humbly in **love**.

Expressing Faith through Love

James 2:14-18

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? **If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?** Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have **works**, is dead.

But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

Expressing Faith through **Love**

Galatians 6:10 (NIV).

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **do** good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Serving one another humbly in love

Matthew 20:24-28 (NIV).

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—**just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**”

Serving one another humbly in love

John 15:7-13 (NIV)

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.**

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.**

A pair of hands is shown holding a bunch of blueberries. The hands are positioned at the top and bottom of the frame, with the blueberries in the center. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. The text is overlaid on this image.

Serving one another humbly in **love**

Ephesians 5:25 (NIV)

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and **gave himself up for her**

Summary

- The word of God is the seed
- We become saved when we respond appropriately to it
- Our salvation is dependent on faith in Christ alone
- When saved, we are under the law of Spirit and life
- Therefore, God expects **us to** bear fruit
- Regarding love, we are to express our faith through love and serve one another humbly
- Follow the pattern of Christ's love