

GALATIANS

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Freedom is something we all desire for our lives. We want to be able to choose for ourselves the way in which we should go. For many people, Christianity & the Bible can seem antithetical to the idea of freedom, but in our text today we will discover how Paul points to Christ as the ultimate source of freedom.

Sermon Outline:

TEXT: Galatians 5:1-15

Verse 1 – For **freedom** Christ has set us free.

Paul has been using examples about slaves becoming sons and children becoming adults to demonstrate the freedom we have in Christ. (chapter 4)

Two Questions This Week:

1. What are we free from?
2. How should we use our freedom?

Verses 1-12

Paul warns us not to go back and become slaves to the thing that we have been set free from. What is that?

HUMAN PERFORMANCE

- FOR THEM – circumcision, food laws, feasts
- FOR US – church attendance, giving, Bible reading

Circumcision was the catalyst for the human performance conversation, that is why Paul continues to come back to it over and over again.

If we believe that God accepts us based on our own performance, we have missed the message of the gospel.

Verses 13-15

Paul points us towards the appropriate use of our freedom.

Paul instructs us not to use our freedom for ourselves, but to love and serve one another.

When we **live for ourselves** it leads us into slavery to our own desires and passions. It also leads us to destroy one another (verse 15)

When we follow Christ's example by loving and serving others. When we allow His Spirit to lead us into truth, we are free, and we produce the fruit of the spirit.

Suggested Discussion Questions:

- Do you remember your first taste of total freedom? (In the message Nathan shared about his first apartment. Share your own coming of age story.)
- Is it possible to be free without the ability to choose? Why or why not?
- How significant is it that Christ has fulfilled the requirements of the law and given us the freedom to choose how we will live?
- Paul seems to indicate in the first verse that it is possible for us to turn from trusting in Christ and to go back to human performance. What are some of the way that you and I might be tempted to do the same?
- In verse six Paul indicates that the gospel is not about external transformation (circumcision), but internal transformation (faith working through love). Have you experience any internal transformation? If so, what has changed?
- Have you ever heard the message of Hyper-grace? This teaching asserts that since Christ has done it all ... therefore you have a license to sin. This is not Paul's message! Paul says that we should not use our freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love to serve one another. How is this different from the message of Hyper-grace?
- How will you use your freedom? (discuss)
- Pray together that God would produce much fruit through your group as you willingly yield to Him.

Additional reading:

Read **Romans 7:1-6**– freedom from the law to live by the Spirit