

Set Free to Live Free
“Don't Go Back to Chains” 5 of 7
Pastor Ed Turley
July 26, 2026

Sermon Teaching

Big Idea: Freedom is not the right to do whatever I want.
Freedom is the power to do what pleases God.

1. Stand Firm in the Freedom Christ Purchased

So Christ has truly set us free. Now **make sure** that you **stay free**, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law. ² Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are **counting on circumcision** to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³ I'll say it again. **If you are trying to find favor with God** by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. ⁴ For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! **You have fallen away from God's grace.** ⁵ But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. ⁶ For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. **What is important is faith expressing itself in love. Galatians 5:1-6 (NLT2)**

“Can we boast, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. **It is based on faith.** ²⁸ So we are made right with God **through faith** and not by obeying the law. **Romans 3:27-28 (NLT2)**

- Anything that **replaces trust in Christ** becomes another form of bondage.

Notes: _____

2. Don't Let Anything Pull You Away from Grace

⁷ You were running the race so well. **Who has held you back** from following the truth?
⁸ It certainly isn't God, for He is the one who called you to freedom.
⁹ This **false teaching** is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough!
¹⁰ **I am trusting the Lord to keep you from believing false teachings.** God will judge that person, whoever he is, who has been confusing you. ¹¹ Dear brothers and sisters, if I were still preaching that you must be circumcised—**as some say I do**—why am I still being persecuted? If I were no longer preaching salvation through the cross of Christ, **no one would be offended.** ¹² I just wish that those **troublemakers** who want to mutilate you by circumcision would mutilate themselves. **Galatians 5:7-12 (NLT2)**

- What we listen to eventually shapes how we live.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT2)

- The loudest voice in your life will eventually become the strongest influence on your life.

Notes: _____

3. Use Your Freedom to Love and Serve Others

¹³ For you have been **called to live in freedom**, my brothers and sisters. But **don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature**. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. ¹⁴ For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! **Beware of destroying one another. Galatians 5:13-15 (NLT2)**

- Christian freedom is not self-centered. → **It is Christ-centered.**

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." **John 13:34-35 (NLT2)**

Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. **Philippians 2:3-4 (NLT2)**

- Grace doesn't lower the standard of love. → **It empowers us to live it.**

Notes: _____

Next Right Steps

This week, I will:

- ☐ Serve someone intentionally.
- ☐ Continue reading through the Galatians Journal.
- ☐ Identify one "chain" I need to surrender to God.
- ☐ Follow Jesus in Believer's Baptism.



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Talk It Over

Big Idea: Freedom is not the right to do whatever I want.
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Welcome & Opening Prayer

Take a few minutes to reconnect and share a highlight from your week.

Icebreaker:

If you could instantly be free from one everyday frustration (traffic, waiting in lines, forgetting passwords, etc.), what would it be?

Transition: Everyone loves freedom. Galatians 5 reminds us that Jesus offers a much deeper freedom—freedom from sin, guilt, performance, and the burden of trying to save ourselves.

Read the Passage Together: Galatians 5:1-15

Invite different members of the group to read a few verses.

Family Questions (Kids & Parents)

1. Why did Jesus set us free?

Parent Help: Jesus set us free so we can love Him and follow Him. Galatians 5:1

2. What does it mean to love and serve others?

Parent Help: It means helping people, being kind, sharing, encouraging, and treating others the way Jesus would. Galatians 5:13

3. What is one way you can show love to someone this week?

Family Application:

Let each family member share one act of kindness they can do this week.

Teen & Adult Discussion

4. What stood out most to you from Sunday's message?

5. Paul says, "Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (Galatians 5:1). What kinds of "chains" do believers still struggle with today?
Examples: guilt, shame, fear, legalism, people-pleasing, comparison

6. Why do you think people are often tempted to add something to Jesus?

What are some modern examples of trusting in something besides Christ?
Romans 3:28

7. Paul asks, "Who cut in on you?" (Galatians 5:7).

What voices or influences can pull believers away from the freedom of the gospel today?

Follow-Up: How can we stay anchored in God's truth?

8. What is the difference between Christian freedom and doing whatever we want?
Galatians 5:13

9. Paul says faith expresses itself through love (Galatians 5:6).
What does that look like practically in everyday relationships?
Examples: family, marriage, friendship, work, church...

10. How can you use your freedom in Christ to serve someone this week?
Be specific.

Who can you encourage, help, forgive, pray for, or serve?

Personal Reflection: Take a few moments quietly before God.

Ask yourself:

- Am I standing firm in freedom or drifting back toward chains?
- Am I trusting Christ alone?
- Am I using my freedom to serve others?

Pray for:

Freedom from legalism and guilt

Wisdom to recognize unhealthy influences

Hearts that love and serve others