

Freedom – Christ Has Set Us Free

Galatians 5:1-15

“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and saturated in His word.”

Paul has shown great concern and correction for the believers in Galatia. He has spent much time helping them see that justification, redemption, and adoption into the family of God is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. In Chapter 5 Paul begins to show how those that have been justified in Christ should live out their freedom. He is cautioning them not to return to the harness of slavery that the law placed on them. The law was never intended to save anyone but only serve as a guide or a guardian to show them their need for a savior.

1. Paul is encouraging them to walk in their freedom that was provided by the grace of God. Explain the freedom that is found through Christ in the grace of God? How does this freedom compare to other types of freedom. How are they similar and how are they different?
2. Paul pleads with the Galatians to return to the freedom found in the grace of God and to cast off the harness of slavery to keeping the law. The Galatians allowed themselves to be enslaved by legalism. What are the ramifications of this worldview and thought process? The Galatians were enslaved to legalism. What are some things that enslave you?
3. The thought that tends to surface is that freedom will lead people to sin and to live however they want. The temptation of legalists is to add stipulations to salvation to prevent one from messing up. How have you struggled with this and how do we see this played out in the world today?
4. Paul points out that the idea of freedom will lead believers to use their freedom to serve others versus serving ourselves. What is the difference in serving and loving others because we are loved by God instead of serving and loving others to be loved by God? How are these two motivations different and how do they practically play out in the church today?
5. This section closes with Paul warning the Galatians that to lack this love that comes from freedom is placing them in danger of destroying one another. Apparently, this kind of love was lacking among the believers in the Galatian churches. It is a picture of wild animals attacking each other. No matter how many rules or standards a church may put in place there is no guarantee of spirituality. The Holy Spirit must fill the hearts of believers with love. How is the freedom given by Christ able to create true unity in the church?