

Sermon #11: Galatians

Living In Freedom

BREAKING THE ICE

Why is it easier to follow a checklist of rules than to simply "love your neighbor"?

What's something in your life that once felt restrictive but later turned out to be freeing—or vice versa?

How did that experience shape the way you think about freedom?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage: Galatians 5:1-15

1. In verse 1, what does Paul say Christ has set us free *for* in this verse?
2. Read verses 2 and 3.
 - a. What does Paul mean when he says Christ will be of no benefit if they submit to circumcision?
 - b. What will getting circumcised obligate them to?
3. What two severe consequences are listed in verse 4 for those seeking justification by law?
4. In verse 5, what do believers eagerly wait for, and how? (Phil. 3:20, Hebrews 9:28)
5. Read verse 6.
 - a. What is the only thing that counts in Christ Jesus?
 - b. How is that expressed? Read James 2:14-18.
6. What question does Paul ask in verse 7 regarding their spiritual progress?
7. How does the analogy in verse 9 help explain what Paul says is happening to them?
8. In verse 11, what does Paul say would cease if he were still preaching circumcision?
9. Read verses 13-14.
 - a. What were we called to be?
 - b. What should we be careful of with our freedom? (Romans 6:1-2)
 - c. What must we do because of our freedom? (Romans 13:8-10)
10. What is the warning in verse 15?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

In Galatians 5:1–15, we see that Jesus' death secured our freedom, but this freedom is not about having unlimited choices or doing whatever we want. Instead, Jesus modeled a radically different kind of freedom: one that often went against cultural and religious expectations. He loved those that others rejected, touched the unclean, and shared meals with outcasts. His freedom was not used to elevate Himself, meet His own needs, or gain approval from others. Rather, it was expressed through humility, self-surrender, and sacrificial love. True freedom in Christ, then, looks like willingly laying down our own rights in order to love and serve others without fear.

- In what ways might you be mistaking freedom for self-focus, or selfishness? How is Jesus inviting you to practice His kind of humble, self-giving love in your relationships this week?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. Are there areas in your life where you feel pressure to “measure up” spiritually? Where do you think that pressure is coming from?
2. Paul warns about being influenced by the wrong teaching. What messages (from culture, church, or your own thoughts) might be subtly pulling your focus away from grace?
3. In what ways do you find yourself comparing your spiritual life to others, and how does that affect your relationship with God?
4. Are there relationships in your life where frustration, competition, or division has crept in? What would it look like to respond differently?
5. Are there areas in your life where “freedom” has become an excuse for sin or self-indulgence? How can you actively use your freedom in Christ this week to serve others in love rather than serving yourself?

PRAYING FOR GOD’S POWER

“This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” - 1 John 5:14-15 When we pray according to God’s will, it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these truths in our own strength, it becomes legalistic obedience. But when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational and glorifies Him.

- Share one specific application from today’s lesson you would like to see transformed in your life. Take time to pray that God would transform you as you trust Him in this area.