

Freedom In Christ

Main Point: Our faith in Christ sets us free to love and serve others.

Text: Galations 5:1-15

Setting: Early church, addressing concerns for the Gentiles and the controversy for new believers and following Jewish laws.

- Verse 1, Christ Death = FREEDOM
 - Freedom from sin
 - Freedom from list of laws and regulation
 - Not Free to do whatever we want (selfishness)
 - Free to live an unselfish life for Christ
 - Falling back into the fleshly desires is the “slavery” that Paul refers to here in verse 1.
- Verses 2-4, Saved by Law or Grace?
 - Saved by the Law
 - Saved by Grace
 - Two different approaches to living by faith.
- By the Law
 - Following the law to be saved means we are trying to do the work and this creates a separation from God.
 - We become more concerned with the rules and regulations rather than focusing on our relationship with God.

- By Grace
 - We trust Christ to have control, it is not our doing that saves us but His.
 - The relationship between us and Christ, is important.
- Verse 6, Faith Saves Us
 - Again we are reminded here that our faith is what saves us not our deeds.
 - Here our love for those around us and for God and His son, Jesus Christ is the right response for someone who has been forgiven.
 - Jesus says in Luke 7:47, those who are forgiven much, love much.
 - Paul writes that we express our faith by loving others. This is a great way for us to monitor our faith and see where we truly are from time to time, and ask ourselves, "Who am I loving today?".
- Verse 9, Little goes a long way
 - Paul refers to yeast in baking here
 - Just a little can have a huge impact
 - Just takes one wrong person to begin to infect the whole group
- Verse 10, Turn Back to God and leave the punishment to Him
- Verse 11, Persecution?
 - Paul's persecution proved He was preaching the Gospel message.
 - Have you friends and family turned away from you because you took a stand with Christ?
 - God is calling you into an area of ministry, that may require some personal persecution. You may lose friends, family, reputation, relationships and maybe even jobs.
 - You are not alone, keep going and keep preaching it.

- Verse 13, Freedom to sin or to Serve?
 - Paul looks at the difference between freedom to sin and freedom to serve
 - Freedom to sin is no freedom at all, it causes us to become slaves to Satan, others and our own sinful desires.
 - Freedom to serve, means to are not slaves to sin, we are free to do right and to bring Glory to God by serving others in Love.
- Verse 14-15, Love Others
 - Often times we can lose our motivation to love others
 - We become critical
 - We stop looking for the good and focus on their shortcomings
 - This leads to disunity
 - When we have conflict we should confront that person in love
 - Don't use gossip or spread rumors
 - Love Others
- **Bottom Line: Christ died so we could be set free from our selfish desires, which leads us to love and serve others in the name of Christ.**