



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Galatians 5:1–15

Questions for the Week: What is “Christian Freedom”? Practically speaking, what “freedom” do you have as a follower of Jesus that is specific to following Jesus?

READ THE TEXT – Galatians 5:1–15

The Structure

1. Direct Address – Avoid “Slavery” of Circumcision because it is Separation from Christ (Gal 5:1–6)
 - 1.1. Paul’s Command to not take up the “yoke of slavery” (5:1; see Matt 11:28–30)
 - 1.2. Circumcision for Gentiles Separates them from Christ (5:2–4; see Gal 3:10–14)
 - 1.3. We anticipate Righteousness by the Spirit from faith (5:5; see Rom 8:18–30)
 - 1.4. Circumcision or foreskin is irrelevant only faith working through love (5:6; see 1 Cor 7:17–19)
2. Direct Address – Avoid Circumcision and its consequences (Gal 5:7–12)
 - 2.1. What happened? (5:7; see also Gal 3:1; 4:4:15)
 - 2.1.1. Circumcision is not from the one who called you (5:8; see also 1:6)
 - 2.1.2. Little Yeast Leavens the whole dough (5:9; see also 1 Cor 5:6)
 - 2.2. Paul’s confidence in the Galatians and the judgment of the opponents (5:10; see Phil 3:15)
 - 2.2.1. Defense of his message (5:11; see also Gal 6:12; 1 Cor 1:18–31)
 - 2.2.2. Condemnation of the opponents (5:12; see Phil 3:2)
3. Freedom to love one another (Gal 5:13–15)
 - 3.1.1. Freedom not for flesh but love for one another (5:13; see also 1 Pet 2:16; 1 Cor 6:12–20)
 - 3.1.2. Law fulfilled in Lev 19:18 (Gal 5:14; see also Rom 13:8–10; James 2:8)
 - 3.1.3. Warning against attacking one another (Gal 5:15)

Questions this Week:

Read all the citations of Leviticus 19:18 in the New Testament:

- Gospels
 - Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:43–48)
 - Rich Young Man (Matt 19:16–22)
 - Second Greatest Commandment (Matt 22:34–40 // Mark 12:28–34 // cf. Luke 10:27)
 - Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–39)
- Paul (Rom 13:8–9; Gal 5:14)

- James (James 2:8–13)

Read Paul’s description of what Baptism means and discuss how baptism enacts Christian freedom.

- Read Romans 6:1–14.
- Read Colossians 2:11–15. Note how Paul describes baptism as a “circumcision made without hands.”

Weekly Questions:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What stood out to you from the text this week?
- What does this text say about the Lord’s reign and what it means to be his set apart people?
- Who are the characters of this story?
- What does this passage invite us to:
 - Do?
 - Think?
 - Feel?
- How did the sermon or passage encourage you to Love God and Love People?
- Which characters do you identify with most in the story? Why?