



#2, Freedom: *I Can*

Galatians 5:1-6, 2 Cor. 3:17, John 8:32, 36

Last weekend we talked about two *life* altering words, “**in Christ!**” No two words in all of human history have brought more change and hope! “**In Christ**” is the turning point of life! Today our message is about *Freedom!* In Paul’s letter to the Galatians, we find one of the most significant passages for our freedom in Christ! The big idea that runs throughout the book of Galatians is encapsulated in the first verse of our message this weekend.

Galatians 5:1

- **“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free!”**
 - Freedom is both the means and the end of the Christian life!
 - Everything about the gospel is freedom.
 - **The cross has purchased our liberty from every yoke of slavery and replaced it with Christ Himself.**
- **Freedom is a provocative word...!**
 - We all long for freedom from our PAST, our PAIN, our FEARS and our DEBTS!
 - **We all have an enormous thirst for lasting freedom.**

Q: Do you feel free in your life?

Q: When in your life did you felt the freest, and why?

Q: When did you last feel free?

Q: Have you *ever* felt free?

Galatians 5:1b

“Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery...”

- **We can relinquish our freedom in Christ!**
 - Jesus did not set us free to then live the rest of our lives in bound-up and self-inflicted legalism.
 - *Paul is saying... “Don’t go back to slavery!”*

We have to work the truth of the gospel down deep into our hearts in order to embrace the freedom that is ours! Let’s never forget that God has freed us from things to which we can be re-enslaved! We get to live in liberty but we’re inclined to move back towards slavery.

Galatians 5:2-3

- **In the Old Testament, circumcision was the means of salvation!**
 - Circumcision is not bad in itself... It just happened to main requirement of the Judaizers who were influencing the Galatians.
 - The startling truth of Christianity is that God’s pleasure is not based on our performing.

Galatians 5:4

- **This is one of the proof texts that some use to state that you can *lose* your salvation.**
 - **I personally believe that once saved, *always* saved...**
 - I think that Paul is talking about falling away from the doctrine of grace.
 - In other words, if you believe salvation is by the law, you have abandoned the belief that salvation is by grace alone.
 - **Either salvation is from God or it's from performance but it cannot be both!**

If you believe that you have to perform to gain God's acceptance, you will always struggle to live with an assurance of your salvation.

Paul was adamant about God's grace for salvation!

Galatians 5:12 (Paul) & Matthew 23:4,15 (Jesus)

- **We really need to grasp our place and freedom in Christ!!**
 - It cost everything... Let's not settle for a poor replica...

Galatians 5:5-6

- **My faith is *best* displayed to others through my love towards them!**
 - Our morality, conservatism, and disciplines are not the primary evidence of our faith!
 - The more I walk with Jesus, the more I realize how we all can struggle with legalism and be entirely unaware!
 - **I believe that too many people read the Bible and miss the good news of freedom!**
 - We can live under a set of smothering religious rules and unhealthy social expectations!

When we live with a strict and stuffy religious mindset, there is almost no space to live, make mistakes, and grow into a mature believer! We create controlling and oppressive environments because we're preoccupied with the way it appears that we live!

Some people fear that *freedom teaching* will cause people to not want to follow or love Jesus! I am actually convinced that the opposite happens!! I believe that when we recognize all that Christ has done to purchase our freedom, we will fall in love with Him! Whereas, when you focus on not sinning, you always sin more (and become embittered)! I believe that a free heart does not lead to a sinful life, but a holy life!

Galatians 5:13

- **I promise you, that if you can grasp this, your life will change!!!**
 - The freedom that Jesus purchases for us is much deeper than anything your self-righteousness can produce!
 - **The only way that this can happen is through the internal revolution of a changed heart!**

No longer be held captive by just one person's script for your life and live the way you were created to live— in Christ, in freedom! Christianity is not bondage, but freedom!

Freedom in Christ is nothing to HIDE, PROVE, FEAR, or LOSE!

John 8:32, 36

**You will know the truth, and the truth will set you *free*.
So if the son sets you *free*, you will be *free* indeed.**