

## Freedom - the Work of Love

### 5.1-12

Christ set us free.

What are we free from?

The curse of the law.

The domination of sin.

**Romans 6:22** But now, since you have been set free from sin and have become enslaved to God, you have your fruit, which results in sanctification—and the outcome is eternal life!

**Romans 8:2** because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Freedom is enjoying a life filled with the Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 3:17** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Freedom is tangible because...

- We are incorporated into the life of God.
- It is mediated through the person of Jesus.
- It is enjoyed in the Spirit.

\*The Judaizers are trying to take away the Galatians freedom.\*

To be free is

- to be who God has created you to be.
- to be who God longs for us to be.
- to enjoy the life God gives us on earth.
- to actively practice, "He is Lord"!

**vs. 2-5**, Primary Exhortation -> Do not get circumcised.

By giving into the pressure, you are demonstrating

- Jesus is insufficient. (The law of Moses is necessary for salvation / approval).
- The Spirit is insufficient and not a good enough guide for living (The law of Moses is necessary).
- In order to truly experience God, you must become a Jew.

If this is the path that you choose to follow then Christ has no value to you.

At the core of humanities existence and understanding of God is **faith!**

In verses **5 & 6** we find the summary statement of the entire letter to the Galatians.

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| - By faith                  | - Through the Spirit                     |
| - The hope of righteousness | - In Christ Jesus (justification)        |
| - Working through love      | - Sound argument against<br>circumcision |

**vs. 7-12**, application

You were running well.

**1 Peter 1:15** But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct;

9-10, It doesn't take much for confusion to set in.

I am convinced in the Lord, you will persevere!

Summary of image concerning circumcision.  
Cut around (very definition)  
Cut into (as a runner) / poor sportsmanship  
Cut off (eunuch) vs. 12

**Personal / Individual Freedom** - I make the decision concerning my life.

**Social Freedom** - equality, justice, and the removal of oppression.

**Cognitive Freedom** - full awareness of self, my emotions, reasons, and perceptions are validated through “who I am.”

### The dark side

*Personal* - radical individualism, demanding independence and autonomy, personal sovereignty.

The reality is being left alone often means being alone.

*Social* - seeking justice can be equated with salvation. The temptation is to equate the social and human processes with the spiritual process.

*Cognitive* - you and you alone get to define who you are. You do not have to follow the rules of society, family, or community. The process of becoming a “free thinking” adult, or overcoming childhood wounds becomes the ultimate destination. Fullness of life is attained when I experience a “breakthrough”.

The Biblical narrative describes freedom as

- Learning who we are (sinners).
- Surrendering our egos to Jesus (conversion).
- Becoming what God wants through the power of the Spirit (obedience).

Paul’s understanding of freedom.

Theological - through Jesus a relationship with God is restored (love incarnate).

Human - personal and social transformation (love incarnate - When clothed in Christ there is no Jew or Gentile, Slave or free, male and female). God’s family becomes a counter cultural reality.

We are no longer slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness (Romans 6:15-23)

**17-18** But thank God that, although you used to be slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over, **18** and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.

### **Freedom = Wholeness**

**Galatians 1:4** who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.

We are incapable of embracing our need for freedom or even understanding it is something to be desired unless we understand the gospel. Is Jesus better, greater, enough, worth it, and compelling?

Set free from what?

To **serve** God, **follow** Jesus, and **live** in the Spirit. Learning to will what God wills.

The way of the world - fights to be left alone, break down social barriers and discover self.

The way of Jesus - loves to be united with his followers and with the family of God, breaks down barriers in society as God’s love is reflected in the hearts of his children, and finds purpose by denying self before God (Galatians 2:20).

### **Practice**

1. Confession - be honest before God.
2. Adjusting our reliance more and more on Jesus. Through Jesus we are made new!
3. Living in the Spirit