

# galatians

## THE SIMPLE GOSPEL

### discussion guide

#### **WEEK 7: YOU ARE FREE!**

##### **Read the Text**

##### **Galatians 5: 1-15**

<sup>1</sup> For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

<sup>2</sup> Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. <sup>3</sup> I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. <sup>5</sup> For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

<sup>7</sup> You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup> This persuasion is not from him who calls you. <sup>9</sup> A little leaven leavens the whole lump. <sup>10</sup> I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. <sup>11</sup> But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. <sup>12</sup> I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>15</sup> But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

## **Main Point**

Christians and non-Christians alike desire freedom. What is true freedom though? The world would define it as the ability to say, think, and do whatever we want, however we want, and whenever we want. This counterfeit freedom leads to sin and destruction though. It leads people to sin, to become their own Gods, and to find their identity in all the wrong things. ***Real freedom is knowing that while the world cruises towards its destruction, we have a God big enough to save us from it.*** Do you see the difference? Whereas the world defines freedom in the self and doing whatever we want, our freedom as Christians comes from something much bigger than ourselves.

So as Christians, what do we do with our freedom? With the Galatians, they moved away from it. They chose slavery and religiousness. They chose to turn away from Jesus and towards themselves. This is a warning to us as well! Paul reminds us that the Christian life is like running a marathon. We should expect good seasons and hard seasons. And ***the only thing that will keep us going is holding fast to the sufficiency of Jesus in all things and remembering that this life is not all about us.***

So how do we stay free? Paul tells us to keep training for this marathon. We can read Scripture, pray, explore spiritual practices, be in community, plug into a local church. ***When we are in community with Jesus and His people, when we live out our freedom in the everyday, we are able to do what Paul and Jesus command us to do: love God and love our neighbor.***

## **Reflect Together**

1. **Who is God?** How does looking to God instead of ourselves bring us freedom?
2. **What has He done?:** How has God offered you freedom? Has he freed you from a particular sin, temptation, worldview, etc.?
3. **Who are you?:** Where in your life do you sometimes fall into slavery and away from freedom?
4. **What are you to do?:** How would you like to turn back to freedom? What would stepping away from slavery and towards freedom look like in your life? Consider visiting our spiritual formation guides on the Doxa app!

## **Abide Together**

Pray together about what came up tonight. Pray that each of you would turn away from slavery and towards freedom in Jesus.

## **Mission Together**

We talked a lot about pride month and the LGBTQIA+ culture of where we live. Where is there an opportunity for you to approach this topic through freedom in Christ? How can you engage your community in this with the grace of Jesus?