

Don't Abuse Your Freedom

Galatians Message Series Week 5

Galatians 5:1-15

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A. What is the basis for our freedom in Christ? (Galatians 5:1)

Through our faith in Christ we are:

1. **Justified**: I am declared not guilty before God.
(Galatians 2:15-17, 3:11, 24)

2. **Redeemed**: I am rescued from the power and penalty of sin. (Galatians 3:13, 4:4-5)

3. **Adopted**: I am a child of God. (Galatians 3:26, 4:4-6)

B. How do we live out our freedom in Christ?

1. **Avoid legalism: Trying to earn acceptance before God through works.**

Do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

Jesus + Something Else = No Gospel

Jesus + Nothing = Everything

2. **Avoid license: Abusing your freedom in Christ to live for yourself.**

...Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh...

Galatians 5:13

“Christian freedom is not a freedom to sin but a freedom from sin.”

David Platt and Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Galatians*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2014, p. 104.

“So Christians are freed from the law as a way to win merit from God, but we are *not* freed from the law as a way to please God. Rather, that obligation is increased. For the law is an expression of God’s nature and heart, and thus we now doubly owe it to Him to use it to please and imitate Him. We owe it to Him as our Creator, since He designed us and owns us, and so He has both the wisdom to know how we are to live and the right to demand that we live that way. On the other hand, we now also owe it to Him as our Redeemer, since we gratefully want to please the one who saved us such immeasurable cost.”

Timothy Keller, *Galatians For You*, The Good Book Company, Charlotte, NC, 2013, p. 143.

C. How does our freedom in Christ allow us to love and serve one another?

- 1. When I experience God's grace and freedom through faith in Christ, it changes my motivation for obeying God's commands.**

"Some think that if you teach freedom in Christ, no one will want to serve Him, but that is not true. The opposite actually happens. When you recognize that Christ has done it all and you truly work this into your heart, you will adore Christ. And an adoring heart does not lead to a sinful life, but a holy life."

David Platt and Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Galatians*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2014, p. 99.

- 2. When I am at peace with God and myself, I have the capacity to love and serve others.**
- 3. When I understand who I am in Christ, it allows me to love others unconditionally because I don't need anything from them.**