

Freedom from the Law

Galatians 5:1-6

*"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."
- Galatians 5:1*

Main Point: Living under the Law means missing out on Freedom in Christ.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Was there a time when you broke the law? How would you behave if you did not have the law to guide you?

When have you tried to do things to please someone and get in their good graces? How does this apply to the Lord?

A lot of us prefer the security of confinement. We like the security of rules and feeling like we're in control. As a matter of fact, we like it so much that we end up trading in the freedom Jesus gives us in order to put ourselves back under the burden of following all the rules and regulations. Paul writes a letter to the church in Galatia to remind them what Jesus has provided for us. But he let them know that if they tried to take matters into their own hands, they were going to be sorely disappointed. He let them know that they were going to miss out on the joy freedom brings.

Our desire should be freedom from the Law because:

1. THE LAW CONDEMNS US. Read Galatians 5:1-3.

What contrast did Paul draw in this verse? How did he describe slavery? What do you think "the yoke of bondage" symbolized?

What did Paul instruct his readers to do? About what danger did he warn them?

Paul commanded the Galatian Christians to stand firm in their freedom in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul admonished his readers to keep standing firm in the face of pressure from those who would lead them to live as if they no longer were free. Christ had set them free from the spiritual slavery of paganism. Would they choose to exchange the freedom they had in Christ for slavery to religious legalism (yoke of slavery)?

To what false teaching were the Galatian believers being exposed? How did that false teaching undermine the message of grace?

Why would those who accepted circumcision be submitting to a yoke of slavery?

2. THE LAW KEEPS US FROM GRACE. Read Galatians 5:4-5.

Paul argued that by submitting to circumcision, the Gentile believers would endorse the false teaching that salvation requires faith plus keeping some law, thus denying that salvation is by grace through faith alone.

In what ways might believers today be persuaded to abandon grace as the basis of their relationship with God? What legalistic rules do some say we must keep if we wish to get to heaven?

What dire consequences to this legalism did Paul outline in verses 2-4?

What is our hope of righteousness (v. 5)? On what does this hope rest?

3. THE LAW IS VOID OF LOVE. Read Galatians 5:6.

Paul said circumcision really didn't matter one way or the other. What did he say was the only thing that mattered as we "eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness" (vv. 5-6)?

How might considering the freedom you have in Christ motivate you to serve others in love? What are some practical ways you could do so this week?

Pray:

Give Jesus thanks for coming to break the chains of sin and the Law. Praise Him for bringing freedom by paying the price for your sins. Ask forgiveness for the times you have tried to "do it yourself" by doing good and trying to outweigh the bad. Pray that God would release you from the bondage of works based faith and trust that He has given you freedom to live in Him.

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