



Sermon Discussion Guide

3.15.26 Message | Tyler Myers | Galatians 5:1-26

Note: This discussion guide is designed for both group and individual use. While some questions are written with group discussion in mind, individuals can still use this guide for personal reflection, journaling, and prayer. Simply adapt any group-oriented questions for your own study time.

LOOK BACK - Relationship & Accountability (~15% of your discussion)

→ Share Life

- What's something simple you're thankful for right now?
- What's been taking most of your attention lately?
- Is there anyone in your community who needs help right now, and how can our group come alongside them?

→ Follow Up From Last Time

- As you think back to last week, what stood out or stayed with you?
- Was there anything you felt invited to try, practice, or pay attention to this week? How did that go?
- Did that show up in any conversations, choices, or moments this week?
- Where did you see God at work - even in small ways?

LOOK UP - Scripture & Discovery (~60%)

→ Read (twice, in different translations)

- Read the text you are studying this week in the ESV out loud.
- Read the text you are studying this week a second time in an alternate version.

→ Retell

- In your own words, summarize what the author is saying in this passage.

Key Scripture (ESV)

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 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. But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves! 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. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

- Galatians 5:1-26

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Biblical freedom is not the absence of control—it is the freedom to belong to the right Master.
- Christ has already given freedom to those who trust Him, but believers must guard that freedom and refuse to return to performance-based religion.
- Legalism threatens freedom by trying to earn God's approval through rules and religious effort.
- License also threatens freedom by using grace as an excuse to live for selfish desires.
- True freedom expresses itself through love, especially in serving others.
- Walking by Spirit is the power source for Christian freedom—life changes not through trying harder but through living from a new identity in Christ.
- The works of the flesh reveal a life centered on self, while the fruit of Spirit reveals a life shaped by the presence and power of God.

CONVERSATION STARTER

When you hear the word **freedom**, what usually comes to mind?

How does that idea compare to the way Paul describes freedom in Galatians 5?

DISCUSS THE MESSAGE (Does your group understand the message?)

- What did you like about this passage?
- Did you find anything difficult about this passage?
- What does this passage teach about God?
- What does this passage teach about people?

THINK DEEPER (Does your group understand the passage?)

- In **Galatians 5:1**, Paul says, “*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore.*” Why do you think Paul tells believers to **stand firm** if Christ has already set them free?
 - In **verses 2–4**, Paul warns that trying to be justified by the law actually separates someone from Christ. Why do you think adding religious performance to the gospel is such a serious problem?
 - Paul says in **verse 6** that what truly counts is “**faith working through love.**” What do you think that kind of faith looks like in everyday life?
 - In **verses 13–15**, Paul says freedom should not become an opportunity for the flesh but should lead us to **serve one another through love**. Why do you think love and service are such an important test of whether someone understands Christian freedom?
 - In **Galatians 5:16–18**, Paul describes a conflict between the desires of the flesh and the desires of Spirit. Where do you see that kind of struggle show up in everyday life?
 - In **verses 19–21**, Paul lists the works of the flesh. What patterns do you notice in this list, and what do they reveal about where a self-centered life eventually leads?
 - In **verses 22–23**, Paul describes the **fruit of the Spirit**. Why do you think Paul calls it *fruit* instead of *works*?
 - According to **verses 24–26**, those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh and are called to keep in step with the Spirit. What might it look like for someone to intentionally keep their life “in step” with Spirit?
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BRIDGE QUESTION

Based on this passage, what kinds of responses does it invite? What direction does it point our lives toward?

LOOK FORWARD – Application & Mission (~25%)

→ Inside Me

- Where do I need to bring my sin into the light instead of hiding it?
- What is one concrete step of obedience I can take this week to pursue Jesus in that area?

→ Who Else?

- Who might need encouragement that grace is real and change is possible?
- How can I move toward them with love and truth this week?

→ Pray Together

- Pray for clarity to see Jesus more clearly and follow Him faithfully.
- Pray for strength to resist anything that competes for our allegiance and next steps.
- Pray for courage and grace to take the next faithful step that God is inviting us into.