

# Freedom in Christ

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Galatians 5:1-6



## Galatians 5:1

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1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.



# Freedom in Christ

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Galatians 5:1-6



# Background of Galatians

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- Written by Paul, to the churches in Galatia
- Written to correct false doctrine and denounce false teachers
- Written to defend the Gospel and protect the church



## Galatians 1:6-9

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6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—

7 not that there is another (gospel), but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed!



# What was the Galatian heresy?

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- A False gospel, which was no Gospel at all
  - Justification by works, not by faith alone
  - Teaching salvation by grace through faith would lead to licentiousness/ immorality



# Paul Defends the Gospel

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- Galatians 2:15-16

<sup>15</sup> “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles <sup>16</sup> know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.”

Galatians 2:21

<sup>21</sup> “I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”



# Paul Defends the Gospel

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- Galatians 3:10-11

<sup>10</sup> For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do *everything* written in the Book of the Law." <sup>11</sup> Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith."

Galatians 4:4-5, 7

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship...

<sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave, but a son...



## Galatians 5:1-6

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1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.



## Galatians 5:1-6

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2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.

3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.



## Galatians 5:1-6

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<sup>4</sup> You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen away from grace.

<sup>5</sup> For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.



## Galatians 5:1-6

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6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but only faith working through love.



*Because we are saved by grace, through faith, the believer must stand firm in freedom by turning away from every form of legalism, by resting in the sufficiency of Christ, and live by faith in the power of the Holy Spirit.*



# What is Freedom in Christ?

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- Freedom from the law
- Freedom to be assured
- Freedom through the Spirit



## Galatians 5:1

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1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.



## Galatians 3:1-3, 6

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1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? 2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? 3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? ...

6 Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. 7 Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.



# Freedom in Christ

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- Freedom from the law
  - From Slavery to the Law (vs 1)

<sup>1</sup> It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and **do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.**



<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...

All forms of legalism are appealing to our flesh and sometimes difficult for us to see because they remove the offense of the cross...



When the legalist measures the offense of the cross and compares it to the yoke of the law, he volunteers for slavery to the law in a blind effort to maintain some sense of self-reliance and self-determination...



# Freedom in Christ

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- Freedom from the law
  - From slavery to the law (vs 1)
  - From being a debtor to the whole law (vs 2-4)

<sup>2</sup> Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, **Christ will be of no benefit to you.**



# Freedom in Christ

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- Freedom from the law
  - From slavery to the law (vs 1)
  - From being a debtor to the whole law (vs 2-4)

<sup>3</sup> And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is **under obligation to keep the whole Law.**



## Romans 3:19-20

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore **no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.**



# Freedom in Christ

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- Freedom from the law
  - From slavery to the law (vs 1)
  - From being a debtor to the whole law (vs 2-4)

<sup>3</sup> Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is **obligated to obey the whole law.**



# Freedom in Christ

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- Freedom from the law

- From slavery to the law (vs 1)

- From being a debtor to the whole law (vs 2-4)

**<sup>4</sup> You have been severed from Christ,** you who are seeking to be justified by law; **you have fallen away from grace.**



If you determine to pervert the gospel by choosing legalism, you have determined to set aside Grace as the only way for you to be reconciled to God.

You cannot mix these two theologies because they are fundamentally opposed.



# Freedom in Christ

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- Freedom from the law
  - From slavery to the law (vs 1)
  - From being a debtor to the whole law (vs 2-4)
- Freedom to be assured (vs 5)

<sup>5</sup> For we through the Spirit, by faith, are **waiting for the hope** of righteousness..



The grounds for assurance does not lie within us...

We must look away from ourselves and up to Christ. In him, and in Him alone do we find the freedom to be assured.



# Freedom in Christ

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- Freedom from the law
- Freedom to be assured (vs 5)
- Freedom through the Holy Spirit (vs 5-6)
  - Freedom to have faith

<sup>5</sup> For we **through the Spirit, by faith**, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but only faith working through love.



# Freedom in Christ

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- Freedom from the law
- Freedom to be assured (vs 5)
- Freedom through the Holy Spirit (vs 5-6)
  - Freedom to have faith
    - Faith that is operative in Love

<sup>5</sup> For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.<sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but only **faith working through love.**



Galatians 5:13-14

You, my brothers were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature, rather, serve one another in love.

The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as Yourself"



Romans 13:8-10

<sup>8</sup> Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

<sup>9</sup> The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

<sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.



# Freedom in Christ

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- Freedom from the law
- Freedom to be assured (vs 5)
- Freedom through the Holy Spirit (vs 5-6)
  - Freedom to have faith
    - Faith that is operative in Love
      - Love fulfills the law
      - Love does not disobey
      - Love does no harm

<sup>5</sup> For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is **faith expressing itself through love.**



The basis upon which we are free is our faith in Christ and His work on our behalf...

That faith comes from the Holy Spirit and is a gift of grace...

That faith is also operative, expressing itself in love...

Love naturally manifests in obedience, not as the means to justification, but as the product of faith because it is the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.



Life in the Spirit is free from and above the kind of religion that would result in either legalism or license...

It is true freedom – a freedom to love and serve God sincerely, not enslaved to sin or to the law.



# Reflection Questions

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- Are you walking in the freedom of being justified by grace, through faith, in Christ alone? Or have you volunteered for slavery to the law?
- Do you find that you're confident when you "perform well" spiritually and withdraw from God and others when you stumble or "perform poorly"?
  - If so, what are you counting on for justification?
- Are you easily frustrated and critical of others when they fall short? This can be a sign that you prefer justification by works and may need to repent.
- Do you struggle with assurance? Are you looking to your own merit? Or to Christ?



# Freedom in Christ

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Galatians 5:1-6