

Take It Home

Applying the Preached Word



Freedom in Christ

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Text

Galatians 5:1-6,13-26

Main Point

We were set free to be free.

Key Ideas

1. The proclamation of freedom:
 - In Christ we are freed from earning our way to God (Gal 3:13)
 - Trying to earn God's favor with our efforts will lead us back to bondage. To be free means to turn from anything that brings us into bondage.
2. The problem we have with freedom:
 - Bondage can come in the form of legalism (trying to earn God's favor through our effort) or license (using our freedom to indulge our fleshly desires). They both lead to bondage. They both have the same draw – we don't need faith or the power of God for either one.
 - Both legalism and license set standards of behavior that please us, not God.
 - To live in legalism (v.4) and license (v.21) is to sacrifice our freedom and good in Christ.
 - How we handle our freedom isn't just a personal thing. It defines our effect on others as well.
3. The paradox of freedom.
 - Walking by the Spirit means to be governed by the Spirit. Freedom means living under God's rule.
 - To live in freedom we need the internal rhythm of obedience that comes with the governing of the Spirit.
 - It is clear to see whether someone is walking by the flesh or by the Spirit. Freedom looks like love and service to God and others.
 - Instead of living with the slavish burden of having to serve God to earn our standing, we are set free to serve and love God out of a heart filled with the fruit of the Spirit.

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Fellowship Starters

Treasure - Application to stir our love for Christ?

1. How have you experienced the freedom of Christ in your life?

Grow - Application to stir our obedience to Christ

2. In your natural tendencies would you tend to trade freedom for legalism or license? How can you tell that?
3. Which of the fruits of the Spirit have you experienced in your life that would be the most different from how you might live if you had not been set free in Christ?
4. Which fruits(s) do you desire to see in greater fullness in your life?

Proclaim - Application to stir our witness for Christ

5. If a non-Christian friend noticed something about you that was different than what they'd expect, how could you relate to them over that from this text?