

Galatians 5:1-11 — FREEDOM

Warm-Up Question:

What are some of the freedoms that you value most? What would be the opposite of freedoms in those areas?

READ: Galatians 5:1-11

I. THE LOSS OF FREEDOM

- ▶ What had Christ set the Galatian Christians (and us) free from? How can a Christian submit themselves to a yoke of slavery (vs. 1-4)?
- ▶ From vs. 6, what are they hoping their circumcision or uncircumcision will count for? What are some other things in life you hope will “count” for you? (i.e. things you are tempted to trust in or look to for approval, worth, or happiness)
- ▶ What is the direct connection between our need to justify ourselves and our inability to love sincerely or forgive people who have hurt us or take a low position in some situation?

II. THE EVIDENCE OF FREEDOM

- ▶ What is the “hope of righteousness” that we have in Christ (vs. 5), and why should we “eagerly wait” for it?
- ▶ Read Phil. 3:6-9 and discuss what Paul was “counting” in and how he was set free from it?
- ▶ What does Paul say is real evidence of our freedom in Christ from Gal. 5:6b? How does being set free in Christ enable us to do that?

III. THE OFFENSE OF FREEDOM

- ▶ Why is the cross offensive to people who are trying hard to make their life count or trusting in their own good works to earn God’s approval (vs. 11)?
- ▶ Why do we need to preach the cross/gospel to ourselves daily to feel the freedom we have in Christ? What are ways you can all the more do that?
- ▶ Read the quote in the sidebar and discuss what fruits of being free in Christ would you like to experience more?

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

"Friends; wouldn't you like to be a person who does not need honor nor is afraid of it? Someone who does not lust for recognition nor, on the other hand, is frightened to death of it? Don't you want to be the kind of person who, when they see themselves in and a mirror or reflected in a shop window, does not overly admire what they see but does not cringe either? Wouldn't you like to be the type of person who, in their imaginary life, does not sit around fantasizing about hitting self-esteem home runs, daydreaming about successes that gives them the edge over others? Or perhaps you tend to beat yourself up and to be tormented by regrets. Wouldn't you like to be free of them? Wouldn't you like to be the skater who wins the silver, and yet is thrilled about those three triple jumps that the gold medal winner did? To love it the way you love a sunrise? Just to love the fact that it was done? For it not to matter whether it was their success or your success. Not to care if they did it or you did it. You are as happy that they did it as if you had done it yourself."

-Timothy Keller

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