

I am Free to Love, not Licensed to Sin

Galatians 5:7-15

Outline

Introduction: One of the most wonderful themes in all Scripture is found in Galatians 5:1: ***“It is for freedom that Christ has set you free.”*** That sounds so great - and it is - but how would you define freedom? What is it? Today’s message will define freedom and describe the life that comes from living free in Christ.

What is freedom?

1. Freedom is more than simply doing whatever you want, whenever you want, using whoever or whatever you want to please whatever whim you want.
2. Real freedom comes from placing your faith in Jesus Christ, who purchased our eternal freedom through His death on the cross. Jesus said, ***“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”*** (John 8:36)
3. Freedom in Christ is the power to be all God created you to be, and to do all that God wants you to accomplish.

Judaizers: The freedom-stealers of Galatia - vs. 7-12

1. There are three offenses of the Cross
 - The Cross is a brutal and bloody execution of an innocent man who claimed to be God’s Son. Hebrews 9:22 says, ***“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”***
 - The Cross reveals man’s utter lost and sinful condition. Romans 6:23 says, ***“The wages of sin is death.”*** Ezekiel 18:4, ***“The one who sins is the one who will die.”***
 - The Cross crushes man’s pride and confirms that man cannot save himself. Galatians 2:16 says, ***“By observing the law no one will be justified.”*** Jesus said in John 14:6, ***“I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father but through me.”***
2. The message of the Judaizers to get right with God through good works sounded plausible because of the surrounding pagan culture.
3. Their diagnosis was correct but their prescription was wrong.

The two faces of bondage: legalism and license - vs. 13, “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh.”

1. Does salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone mean that I am free to do whatever I want and God will not care?
2. When this evil logic prevails anything goes...there are no limits and no restraints. In John 8:34 Jesus replied, ***“Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”***

The heart of a grace-empowered life - vs. 13b-15, “Rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.”

1. The Christian life is not the ugly faces of law or license on the outside, but the beautiful face of love coming from the inside.
2. You live a Christ-like life because Christ is living it through you! ***Galatians 2:20***
3. How do you know when you are living the life of amazing grace? ***Galatians 5:6***
4. How do you know when the life of amazing grace is absent? ***Vs. 15, “If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.”***

Conclusion: What does the church or a Christian that is living the amazing life of grace look like?

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.”
1 John 4:7-8