

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS

DINNER TIME DISCUSSION:

What is a rhythm you can put into your life (or your family's life) to help you sit and savor your loved status before God more regularly?

GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE:

What little bit of legalism have you let creep into your life? How does this destroy your freedom?

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/preach-the-gospel-to-yourself>

The Gospel Primer by Milton Vincent

What's So Amazing About Grace? by Philip Yancey

MEMORY VERSE:

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."

Galatians 5:13-14, ESV

DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES:

Keep practicing the Prayer of Examen as a tool to help you notice the places that God shows up in your day. The Bible says that God's Spirit is always with us (Psalm 139:1-16) and that we should seek to examine our lives alongside him (Psalm 139:23-24).

There are four steps to this daily practice: (1) Acknowledge and invite God's presence in, (2) Express gratitude to him, (3) Examen your past day alongside God, (4) Look ahead and ask for guidance and help.

Check previous weeks for helpful questions to guide Q3.



Leader Resource Guide for October 31, 2021

Pastor Dave Bondeson

Galatians 5

For Freedom



SERMON NOTES

Freedom BY GRACE

Freedom FROM LEGALISM

Freedom FOR SACRIFICE

COMMUNITY BUILDING

If you were free from all responsibilities, what would you do on your "day off?"

During our study of Galatians, it has been stated that there is nothing we can do to make God love us more, and nothing we can do to make him love us less. Discuss what you think about that. Connect that with "I love Jesus, but does he really love me when I _____, or I don't_____ . (fill in the blanks)"

CHRIST CENTERED DISCUSSION:

1. Read Galatians 5:1-15 together. Where does the true gospel of grace show itself?

Hopefully, your group is developing the habit and skill of pointing out the gospel as you read scripture together. One of the big ideas of this series is that we can and should camp on the gospel always as the main way to guard against slipping into the "Jesus AND" way of life. How are you reminding yourself of this gospel of grace more often?

2. Look at Galatians 5:1-4 again. In this text, Paul is contrasting the yoke of slavery to following the law with the freedom found in the gospel of grace. What does Paul mean by the yoke of slavery? Why does Paul refer to trying to follow the law to earn righteousness as slavery? From what has a Christian been set free?

We have been set free from having to try to earn God's love and our righteousness through legalism. According to "Galatians for You" (Tim Keller), another way to say Galatians 5:6 is "neither moral exertion (circumcision) or moral failure (uncircumcision) counts. Period." Or, there is nothing we can do to make God love us more or less.

3. **Contrast the burden of the law with the freedom found in the gospel of grace. What about the gospel is so freeing? If the gospel is so freeing, why are we drawn back to the slavery of righteousness by the law?**

4. **Which of the practical steps that Pastor Dave talked about in guarding your grace-centered status in Christ are most compelling? Which step do you need to take?**

5. **What does it mean to you to savor your grace-centered status based on what God has done for you in Jesus? How does it look or how could it look?**

There is often pressure to apply information to change behavior, but Galatians 5:5 says that we "wait for the hope of righteousness" by faith through the Spirit. You want righteousness? Wait. Even in our discussions often, we look for the clear action step in response to truth. The clear action step of the gospel is "Rest, I've done it all for you" says God. Talk through how that truth can be so different than the pressure we might feel to do more to look like a good follower of Jesus. What is the motivation in that?

6. What motivates you to obey God's commands? (Fear of getting on God's bad side? Manipulating God so he will bless you? Bargaining with God? To "pay back" the debt from the gift of God's grace?) What are you hoping to achieve? What may this reveal about your deepest desires and view of God?

7. Faith not only is the means of receiving forgiveness and being saved (Galatians 3:14), but also the means by which a Christian now lives his/her new life in Christ. Galatians 2:20 says "The life I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God." What do you find in Galatians 5 which helps a Christian know what living by faith looks like? See Galatians 5:6, 13-15, 22-23, 25-26. What are the expressions of real saving faith and what aren't? What is the biblical metric to know if you are walking with Christ?

8. According to Galatians 5:13-14, what have we been freed *for*? At first glance, the call to serve others can appear like a burden (slavery), rather than freedom. How can serving others be an expression of freedom? How has Jesus (who has complete freedom) proven that serving others is not slavery?

9. How does the gospel free us to love God and others? How does the gospel motivate us to love God and others?

The gospel doesn't mean that we have to obey God all the time. The gospel means we want to obey God all the time. As we experience gospel-freedom, the Spirit helps us desire sin less and desire the things of God more. The Gospel Transformational Bible says that the gospel "transforms them (believers) to live according to God's requirements of loving regard for his name and his people."

BONUS COMMUNITY BUILDER:

Three commentaries on Galatians are titled: Be Free; The Charter of Christian Freedom; and Only One Way. What do these titles indicate about the theme of Galatians? Review your notes and discussions so far through this series and come up with what would you name a commentary / book on Galatians.