



Week 11: Galatians 5:1-15

GOSPEL FREEDOM

With the gospel's foundation firmly laid, Paul pivots to its implications for daily life. Freed from the constraints of the Law, we now live solely through Christ. But this freedom isn't a license for self-indulgence; it compels us towards righteous love for one another. This liberation empowers us to serve and love our fellow believers, fulfilling Christ's true intention.

THE SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 5:1-15

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. ⁷ You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion is not from him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰ I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. ¹¹ But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. ¹² I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves! ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

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LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 11

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. What is one thing in this life that you couldn't live without?
2. Do you like games with challenging instructions and rules, or games with simple instructions and few rules? Why?

DIVING DEEPER

3. As Galatians 5 opens, Paul changes direction and begins applying all that he has instructed the Galatians towards. Verse 1 provides the summary charge he gives the Galatian churches, and it serves as a summary verse for his entire letter. Make an effort to rephrase this verse in a way that best makes sense to you.
4. Verses 2-4 outline the consequences of relying on circumcision for salvation. What are the four consequences Paul gives?
5. How can Paul say in verse 2 that accepting circumcision as a requirement would render Christ useless to them?
6. Verse 4 succinctly states that the Galatians are in danger of trading justification by faith for what?
7. Why is it true that to add to the gospel is ultimately to destroy it?
8. In verse 6 Paul says that neither circumcision nor uncircumcision can improve our standing before God. Although most of us do not live in a Jewish context today, what kinds of things might we mistakenly believe can improve or even diminish our standing before God?

10. If someone told you that Christian freedom means you can do whatever you want, how would you explain the true meaning of freedom in Christ based on Galatians 5?

11. In what ways might we misuse our Christian freedom to justify self-centered behavior?

12. Why does Paul conclude his discussion of circumcision and freedom with the command to “love your neighbor as yourself” (verse 14)?