

The One True Gospel

Galatians 5:1-15

Free to Serve Christ and Others

Galatians 5:1-6 (CSB)

For freedom, Christ set us free. Stand firm then and don't submit again to a yoke of slavery. ²Take note! I, Paul, am telling you that if you get yourselves circumcised, Christ will not benefit you at all. ³Again I testify to every man who gets himself circumcised that he is obligated to do the entire law. ⁴You who are trying to be justified by the law are alienated from Christ; you have fallen from grace. ⁵For we eagerly await through the Spirit, by faith, the hope of righteousness. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision accomplishes anything; what matters is faith working through love.

In Christ we are free. Free from the bondage of sin. Free from the weight of guilt and shame. Free to live for the glory of God. Being in Christ hinges on faith. Not works. Not ability. Not "goodness". Faith alone in Christ alone.

Several great doctrines came out of the reformation including the 5 Solas: Grace alone, Faith alone, Christ alone, Scripture alone and to the glory of God alone. For the context of these verses, we are going to focus on Faith alone and Grace alone.

Faith alone by grace alone is the mantra of Galatians. As we are transitioning to the application of the gospel in chapters 5 and 6, Paul reemphasizes that through faith we are free in Christ. We literally do not add anything to the grace of God found in Christ. Verse 2 teaches us that if we try to even add one single thing to the gospel, Christ will be no benefit. Meaning, an altered gospel isn't a gospel at all. An altered gospel has ZERO ability to save anyone. It's either by grace through faith or nothing at all.

Galatians 1:6-7 (CSB): *I am amazed that you are so quickly turning away from him who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are troubling you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.*

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ What does freedom in Christ mean?
- ❖ Why should we understand the doctrines of faith alone and grace alone?
- ❖ Why can we never change the gospel in anyway?

Galatians 5:7-12 (CSB)

You were running well. Who prevented you from being persuaded regarding the truth? ⁸This persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹A little leaven leavens the whole batch of dough. ¹⁰I myself am persuaded in the Lord you will not accept any other view. But whoever it is that is confusing you will pay the penalty. ¹¹Now brothers and sisters, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹²I wish those who are disturbing you might also let themselves be mutilated!

Have you considered that God only calls you to believe truth? Man, will push you to avoid, manipulate, disregard and go against the truth. Therefore, running well is directly tied to the truth.

John 14:6 (CSB): *Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

John 17:17 (CSB): *Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth.*

Truth is vital to the believer. We are called to test everything. We are called to be on guard. We are called to avoid all people that speak against or distort the truth. We must remember as Paul stated, a little leaven leavens the whole batch. It only takes an extremely small amount of untruth or distortion to infiltrate the church and sound doctrine will be destroyed. Therefore, we must be on guard. At ALL times. We must be serious about standing for truth and standing against those that distort and lead others astray.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why is it that God only speaks truth?
- ❖ How important is truth to the believer?
- ❖ Why do we need to be diligent in clinging to the truth?

Galatians 5:13-15 (CSB)

For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love. ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement: love your neighbor as yourself. ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another.

Not only are we free to know and enjoy God, but we are free to serve others. We are free to love one another. Believers are called to live a life marked by love: (1) loving God and (2) loving others. The gospel changes how we not only relate to God but to one another.

Loving one another well should be the goal of every believer. This is the natural expected response to the gospel. The opposite of the gospel work is biting and devouring one another. How we relate to others reveals our walk with the Lord. If we are having trouble loving one another either (1) we are grieving the work of the Spirit in our lives or (2) we are not saved to begin with.

Discussion Questions:

- ❖ Why should we love one another?
- ❖ Is our loving one another conditioned on anything?
- ❖ What are some practical ways we can love one another well?