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## Freedom To Live For Christ

Galatians 5:1-15

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### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

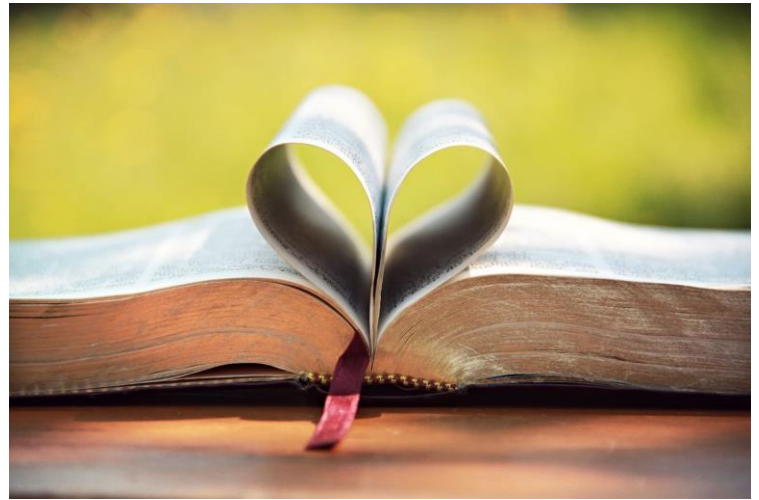
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



This week we start chapter 5 of the book of Galatians. In this section, Paul is again addressing how important it is not to be consumed with following the law. Here we will see what he sees as more important. Paul understands that following the law is secondary to how we treat people. People are more important than the law, and as Christians our actions should show that. Paul also points out what Jesus had taught: loving people will fulfill the law. This week we will talk about how we as Christians can put people first, and love them as Christ has loved us.

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

-Romans 13:8

## Read Galatians 5:1-15 (NET)

<sup>1</sup> For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be subject again to the yoke of slavery. <sup>2</sup> Listen! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you at all! <sup>3</sup> And I testify again to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You who are trying to be declared righteous by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace! <sup>5</sup> For through the Spirit, by faith, we wait expectantly for the hope of righteousness. <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision carries any weight—the only thing that matters is faith working through love.

<sup>7</sup> You were running well; who prevented you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup> This persuasion does not come from the one who calls you! <sup>9</sup> A little yeast makes the whole batch of dough rise!

<sup>10</sup> I am confident in the Lord that you will accept no other view. But the one who is confusing you will pay the penalty, whoever he may be.

<sup>11</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. <sup>12</sup> I wish those agitators would go so far as to castrate themselves!

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity to indulge your flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law can be summed up in a single commandment, namely, “*You must love your neighbor as yourself.*” <sup>15</sup> However, if you continually bite and devour one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another.

## **EXAMINE His Word (Observation)** (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passages.**

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

**🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)** (For Community Group discussion)  
**What does God MEAN?**

8. What has Christ set us free from?

9. Why will Christ be of no benefit if they are circumcised? (v. 2)

10. What is Paul accusing them of using the law for? (v. 4)

11. How do we receive righteousness? (v. 5)

12. After warning the Galatians of circumcision in verse 2, what does Paul mean in verse 6 that neither circumcision nor uncircumcision accomplishes anything?

13. According to verse 13, what is our freedom for?

**③ EMBRACE His Word (Application)** (For Community Group discussion)

**Why does this MATTER to me?**

14. How can we use our freedom to love our neighbor?

15. What are some examples of Christians being more concerned about the law than people?

## **Summarize your thoughts on the passage**

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

## **SERMON NOTES**