

USE FREEDOM BY THE SPIRIT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GALATIANS 5:7-15

- 1 **Most people want to be free so that they can do whatever they want.** They may want to be emotionally, politically, financially, relationally free so that there are no boundaries or constraints. Usually this desire to be free means serving whom?

⚙️ *Where does that understanding of freedom ultimately lead?*

♥️ *Where are you inclined to indulge yourself in the name of your freedom in Christ?*

💬 *Has there been a time recently where you were striving for freedom and it was motivated by selfish desires? How did that work out? What lessons did you learn? How did you get a right compass heading after that?*

- 2 **Paul turns this idea of freedom on its head.** He instructs us to use our freedom to serve others. How do we become free to serve others?

📖 *In what situations do you find it hard to love others? How does the instruction in Galatians 5:13-15 help you work through that?*

⚙️ *What are some of the major truths we must embrace if we want to turn away from self towards others?*

♥️ *How would you grade yourself in the area of serve? Why?*

- 3 **The gospel neither leads us to live a guilty life under legalism nor an unholy life under license.** What do you think about that?

📖 *Instead the gospel teaches us to live in freedom controlled by whom, according to Galatians 5:16?*

💬 *How does this make all the difference? How does he balance us and keep us in tune with the gospel?*

♥️ *Choose a sin you are struggling with _____. Why do you want to sin in this way? How does your gospel freedom undermine that motivation to sin?*

4 **Galatians 5:13 calls us to use freedom to love one another.** How could you love your neighbor this week? (Perhaps think about your geographical neighbor, not just your metaphorical one). What is a specific way that you could use your freedom to serve someone else this week.

5 **In Galatians 5:1-15, Paul deals with extreme poles of legalism, and license.** In the end he calls for a moderating position of liberty in Christ.

♥ *Legalism is not an outright denial of Jesus; rather, it is an addition of certain works to Jesus in order to secure a better standing with God. Would you say there is legalistic teaching in the world today? If so, in what ways? How would you say it is manifested in the lives of people under the teaching?*

🗨️ *License is a way of thinking that seeks to celebrate freedom in Christ by doing away with any standard of holy living. Would you say that this kind of thinking exists among any Christians today? If so, in what ways? How does this kind of thinking manifest itself in the lives of believers today?*

⚙️ *In light of the two poles how would you describe biblical liberty, freedom in Christ, as different? Write a definition or explanation below.*

6 **When Christian liberty is rightly understood and properly lived out, it leads to a life of fruitful service to God and others.** However, if it is abused it leads to a life of frustrating selfishness.

💡 *In what practical everyday ways would you say Christian liberty is abused?*

🗨️ *What is a natural way to view liberty apart from what God's word teaches?*

📖 *According to Galatians 5:13-14, what is the goal and end result of Christian liberty?*

📖 *How does Romans 13:8-10 describe this "new law" under which believers are able to operate?*

7 **Often issues of rights, rules, and restrictions turn into quarrels and conflicts among God's people.** What is the proper approach to these subjects? What is the ultimate purpose of freedom?²

8 **Most of us naturally tend towards losing or abusing Christian freedom.** Some of us like to rigidly follow the "rules" of Christianity and we take pride in that. Others of us feel foot-loose and fancy free without regard of rules or how our freedom affects others. Which one do you tend toward? What are you doing about that tendency?

9 **Paul writes Galatians 5:7 and indicates that they "were running well."** What does he mean by that? If Paul were to write you a letter would he say you were running well? Why or why not?³

PRAYER REQUESTS

1 Timothy Keller, Galatians For You. 144.

2 Steve Pettit, Walking in the Spirit; A study Through Galatians 5 (Greenville: Journey Forth, 2014). 5-18.

3 John MacArthur, Galatians; The Wondrous Grace of God. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2007). 97.