

GAL. 5:1-6 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

CELEBRATING FREEDOM - (SERMON MP3)

1. **Imagine that you are leading a Bible study** and the conversation turns to the subject of Christian freedom. This precipitates a tense exchange between one member who tends to be a bit rigid and another attendee who participates in many “questionable” behaviors without a seeming twinge of conscience. What do you say?
 2. **How do you define freedom?** When in your life have you felt most free?
 - *Most people value their freedom very highly. Why would anyone need to be warned to stand fast and avoid submitting to slavery?*
 - *What is the freedom that is found in the grace of God? How is it similar or different from other types of freedom?*
 3. **The freedom described in Galatians 5:1** is not primarily a freedom from sin, but rather from the law.²
 - *What limits your freedom? The Galatians allowed themselves to be enslaved to legalism. What enslaves you?*
 - *Most people want to be free so that they can do whatever they want. Is that really freedom? Where does that lead?*³
 4. **How do you interpret Paul’s phrase “fallen away from grace” in Galatians 5:4?** What implications might this verse have for the discussion of whether someone can lose their salvation or not?
 - *How does 1 John 2:19 fit into the discussion?*
 - *Have you ever felt like you lost your salvation? What caused such fear? What passages of scripture ministered to you and provided comfort and assurance?*

5. **If we have been declared righteous in Christ**, why would Paul say that we still hope for it in Galatians 5:5?

- How should a certain future hope (Gal. 5:5) impact your life now?

- How can you make sure you meditate on your glorious future more often? What practical steps can you take?⁴ Be prepared to share some of your ideas with your study group.

6. According to **Galatians 5:6**, did Paul view circumcision as an inherently bad practice? How do you know?

- What did Paul see as the more important issue instead?

- What contemporary correlations might we substitute in the verse to help us apply the truth to our context? “For in Christ Jesus neither _____ nor _____ counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”

- What is an example of faith working through love? What areas in your life need to demonstrate more evidence of a loving faith?⁵

7. Read **Galatians 5:5-6** and fill in the chart below by identifying which expressions depict real saving faith, and which do not?

Expressions of real saving faith	Not expressions of real saving faith

PRAYER REQUESTS

8. **Have you ever come close to losing (or actually lost) your gospel freedom?** Have you ever exchanged liberty in Christ for the bondage of fear or the shame of condemnation? How did this happen? What lessons can you draw from that experience?

9. **Paul has repeatedly told the Galatians** that Christians do not need to fear condemnation because of their failure to keep the law. At the end of the day, we are righteous in Christ. But when many people hear this, they think, “Wow, if I believed that, I’d be able to live any way I wanted.” At first glance, the gospel does seem to remove all incentive to live a holy life. How would you respond to that thought process? What passages of scripture provide relevant insight into this issue?