

Week 1: The New Life

Overview: Galatians 5 opens our eyes to a new calling that is found in Christ – the calling to be free! Paul says the freedom of Christ should be used to serve and love others just as Christ came not to be served but to serve. In this first week, we will encourage and equip our students to live out their calling in Christ.

Key Scripture: Galatians 5:13-15

Supporting Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 10:10

Content

Key Takeaway: The Freedom that Christ gives, should never be kept to ourselves - instead it should be used to serve others humbly, and live as Christ has loved.

Key Points:

- The Freedom found in Christ is for...
 - God
 - Believers are set free from condemnation and guilt;
 - in this new freedom we can be in right standing with God and have a relationship with Him without fear of failure or measuring up to a “standard”
 - Christ has fulfilled the standard which brings us ultimate freedom.
 - Christ sets us free to live a life that honors Him, we are no longer bound by the sins that once defined us, rather we are now defined by the salvation of Christ that is empowered by the Holy Spirit.
 - Others
 - Freedom found in Christ is not for us to just keep to ourselves, rather it should be used to serve one another in love.
 - In the freedom of Christ, the needs of others are seen greater than our own.
 - Ourselves
 - Freedom in Christ brings us a freedom of self-focus. It moves believers away from obsessive working, performing, and seeking approval from others.
 - In Christ's freedom we can be truly satisfied and rest in the work already completed by Christ on the cross
- Freedom brings new living (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - In Christ we are a new creation
 - The freedom we embrace brings a new life that is worth living!
 - We no longer live for the world, yet we live for Jesus who has given abundant life (John 10:10)

- Abundance doesn't mean we have everything we want, but it does mean that in relationship with God, he will give us everything he knows we need to live, Honor Him, and serve others in love.

Gospel Application: Through the Cross, Jesus provides ultimate freedom. Christ frees us from the power of sin and brings us into relationship with him. This relationship should lead to not only glorifying him but serving others Humbly in the love in which he loves us.

Key Question: What does Christ's freedom mean for you? And what areas of your life do you need to embrace his freedom to better love him and better love others.

Application

Activity suggestions: Ask the following "If you could let go of one fear, guilt, or pressure today, what would it be? "Go around the group and share briefly. Connect this to the idea that Christ brings freedom from guilt, fear, and striving to earn approval.

Community Group Questions:

- According to 2 Corinthians 5:17 - what does being a new creation mean in everyday life?
- When you hear the word freedom, what comes to mind? How does the world's definition of freedom differ from what we read about earlier tonight?
- What does freedom in Christ mean to you? And how does it change the way that you approach God?
- Where have you experienced God giving you what you need rather than what you want?