

Finding True Freedom
Galatians 5:1-15
Message Notes by Pastor Josh Smith on 10/11/20

1. Only Christ can set us _____.

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.” -Galatians 5:1a (NIV)

“Even though conditions such as lack of sleep, insufficient food and various mental stresses may suggest that the inmates were bound to react in certain ways, in the final analysis it becomes clear that the sort of person the prisoner became was the result of an inner decision, and not the result of camp influences alone. Fundamentally, therefore, any man can, even under such circumstances, decide what shall become of him-mentally and spiritually. He may retain his human dignity even in a concentration camp. Dostoevsky said once, "There is only one thing that I dread: not to be worthy of my sufferings." These words frequently came to my mind after I became acquainted with those martyrs whose behavior in camp, whose suffering and death, bore witness to the fact that the last inner freedom cannot be lost. It can be said that they were worthy of their sufferings; the way they bore their suffering was a genuine inner achievement. It is this spiritual freedom-which cannot be taken away-that makes life meaningful and purposeful.” -Viktor Frankl in *Man’s Search for Meaning*

2. We must stand firm in our _____.

“Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” -Galatians 5:1b (NIV)

3. A truly freed person focuses on _____.

“The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love...You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge in the flesh; rather serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.” -Galatians 5:6b & 13-15 (NIV)

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most in the message?
2. What is the difference between true freedom and false freedom? How are the false freedoms a “burden” to you?
3. What does it mean for Christ to set you free?
4. What distracts you from your freedom in Christ and how could you stand more firm in your freedom that comes from Christ?
5. What does Paul mean when he says, “But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather serve one another humbly in love?”
6. Have you ever used your freedom in Christ as an excuse for sinning?
7. What are some examples of people infringing upon the freedom that is found in Christ by becoming too legalistic? Have you done this or has this been done to you?

Resources for Going Deeper:

- *The Freedom of a Christian* by Martin Luther
- *Martin Luther’s Commentary on Galatians* by Martin Luther
- *The Explicit Gospel* by Matt Chandler