

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Gospel Tribune

WOODSIDE BIBLE CHURCH

\$0.00

GOOD NEWS!

Truth Has Been Found!
Everywhere we turn, some...

DISCUSSION GOAL



To understand what we lose when we live in slavery to the law instead of standing in the freedom of Christ.

ICE BREAKER



What was your favorite childhood movie? The one you could watch over and over again.

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.

Galatians 5:1-15

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

² Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. ³ I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. ⁴ You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

⁷ You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion is not from him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰ I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. ¹¹ But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. ¹² I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: Stand in the freedom of the gospel.

Key Question: What happens when we're re-enslaved to the law?

1. We lose the benefits of Christ. (vv. 1-6)
2. We lose the scandal of the cross. (vv. 7-12)
3. We lose the motivation of love. (vv. 13-15)

DISCUSSION



- In the opening of this week’s passage (v.1) Paul declares that Christ has set us free; free from seeking justification through good works (or the law). Instead of standing in freedom, why do you think we’re drawn back towards self-justification through rule-keeping? Can you share an example of a time when you thought you could earn God’s favor by having good conduct or following religious rituals?
- Paul warns that if we seek justification through law-keeping, then we’ll be cut off from Christ (vv.2-6). How would it affect your personal assurance of salvation if you adopted a system of salvation that was dependent upon your good works and religious devotion instead of faith?
- In verse 11 Paul uses the phrase “the offense of the cross.” What makes the cross scandalous or offensive? Where have you seen the cross offend? And how does trying to workout our salvation remove the offense of the cross?
- Reread verses 13-15. In these verses Paul writes about how faith works through love. What difference has your faith in Christ made in your ability to love people?
- Read Matthew 22:36-39. What is significant about the order of these commands? How does Paul reinforce Jesus’ words from Matthew in his letter to the Galatians?

LIFE APPLICATION



In Galatians 5:1-15 Paul urges us to stand in the freedom we have in Christ and to not return to a former life of slavery to the law. He emphasizes in verses 13-15 that we stand in freedom so that through love we can better serve others. As a group come up with some practical ways in which you can serve the people around you through love.

Dot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


