



Sermon Discussion Questions

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Sermon Series: One Book - Galatians

Week 3: Freedom from Striving

1. ICE BREAKER: Have you ever gone the wrong way on a road trip, missed an exit, or followed bad directions? What happened?
2. Read our Scripture for this week, Galatians 3:1-6:

¹You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ²I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? ³Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? ⁴Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? ⁵So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? ⁶So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

What words or phrases stand out to you in this passage? Why do you think Paul speaks so strongly to the Galatians?

3. The story of John Currier described someone who was legally free, innocent in the eyes of the law, and yet continued to serve his life-long prison sentence because of an administrative error. Sometimes in our faith, we are offered freedom, but don't step fully into it.

Can you think of an area in your life where this has been true of you before? Discuss some of the reasons why someone may stay "trapped," even when offered freedom?

4. Read Jesus' words in John 8:36, "*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*" In Luke 4:18-19, Jesus read the words from the scroll of Isaiah, "*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*"

Discuss the questions that were posed in the message: Are you free? Is the faith that you're living making you increasingly more free?

5. Dallas Willard once wrote, "Christian Spirituality wrongly understood or pursued is a major source of human misery and rebellion against God."

React to this quote. Do you agree or disagree? Why? What are some ways people can unintentionally turn Christianity into a burden rather than good news?

6. The Gospel of Jesus is good news that offers freedom. Paul wrote in Galatians 5:1, "*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*"

When you hear the word "freedom," what comes to mind? How is the freedom Jesus offers different from the way our culture typically defines freedom?

7. The Scriptures also teach the idea that without Jesus, I'm NOT free. We can all enjoy our freedoms of choice. However, we cannot be easily freed from the consequences of our choices.

What kind of freedom do you find with Jesus? What relationship do you see between our freedom of choice, and the consequences of our choices? Reflect on the idea that we cannot be easily freed from the consequences.

8. Author John Ortberg wrote about the idea that sometimes we are not just disappointed in what we do, but in who we are. Paul echoed this in Romans 7:24-25a, "*What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!*"

What is the difference between being disappointed in our actions and in who we are? How does God bring us freedom from both? What has that looked like for you and your own walk with faith?

9. PRACTICE: Have someone in your group put on some prayerful music. Think about these ideas:

Jesus + nothing = everything

Jesus + something = nothing

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal if there is anything that you are doing to try and 'earn' God's love for you. What is one area of your life where you need God's freedom right now?