

Galatians 5:1-15

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Scope of Christian Freedom

- **Freed from Sin** (Romans 6:16-18)
 - Past: slaves of sin
 - NOW: slaves of righteousness
- **Freed from Self** (Ephesians 2:1-3)
 - Past: fulfilling desires of flesh and mind
 - NOW: created in Christ Jesus for good works
- **Freed from a system of religion** (Galatians 3:13-14)
 - Past: Bound by the law and its curse
 - NOW: Redeemed by Christ and given the Spirit

Call to Christian Freedom

- **We've died to the law, been married to Christ so we can bear fruit to God**
 - Serve God in the newness of the Spirit (Romans 7:6)
 - Ezekiel 36:27 – “Put My Spirit within you, cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.
- **1) Stand firm and 2) do not be entangled again**
 - Imperative mood (i.e. it's a command!)
 - “There is nothing He wills with more intensity under the glory of His own name than this: your freedom” - John Piper

Why Christian Freedom Matters

- **How Christ (by grace) bestows His blessing (v. 2)**
 - God is our *benefactor*, not our *banker*
 - Ephesians 1:5-7 (NLT)
- Any attempt to **keep a single law through human effort, obligates you to the whole law (v. 3)**
 - Stumbling in one point makes you guilty of all (James 2:10)
- **Law (in legalism) severs you from Christ (v. 4)**
 - Fallen from grace
 - Lost your freedom
 - The offense of the cross ceases (v. 11)

What Does Christian Freedom Look Like?

- **Eagerly waiting for the hope of righteousness (v. 5)**
 - Final confirmation of salvation
 - Romans 8:30
- **Faith working through love (v. 6)**
 - Saving faith is working faith and the work is love
 - John 13:35
- **Serving one another (v. 13)**
 - Deny the our flesh which compels us to selfishness
 - John 13:14-15
- **Fulfilling the law (v. 14)**
 - Faith produces obedience motivated by love
 - “It’s living a *thank you* life and a *want to* life rather than a *have to* life” – Tony Evans

Reflection Questions

- God's grace leads us to repentance (Romans 2:4), sets us free (Galatians 5:1) and trains us to be godly in the present age (Titus 2:11-12)
 - How has God's grace transformed your heart? In what ways has he "freed" you from the oppressive weight of sin and law?
- Paul warns us not to use our freedom to "indulge the flesh"
 - In what ways are you prone to misuse, abuse or distort your God-given liberty in Christ?