

For Freedom

A 3D rendered image of a broken metal chain. The chain is made of thick, metallic links. One link in the center is broken, with several small pieces of metal floating away from it. The chain is set against a dramatic, golden-hued sky with dark, swirling clouds. In the background, a large, dark cross is visible, partially obscured by the chain. The overall scene conveys a sense of liberation and breaking free from constraints.

Galatians 5:1-15

For Freedom

Galatians Review

- The Setting
- The Situation
- Serious Talk



For Freedom

1. Don't Go Back! (5:1-4)

“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. ² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.”

For Freedom

1. Don't Go Back! (5:1-4)

a) You have been set Free

- 2 ideas about relationship with God
- through what we do.....
- through what Jesus has done.....
- Christ removed barriers, dealt with penalty

b) Stand firm

- easy to slide back – righteous by what I do
- can choose to live as one enslaved

For Freedom

1. Don't Go Back! (5:1-4)

a) You have been set Free

b) Stand Firm

c) One or the Other

- can't play 'cover your bases'
- not the act, what you believe it does
- settle issue of how you are justified

For Freedom

2. Focus on the Truth (5:5-6)

“⁵ But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”

For Freedom

2. Focus on the Truth (5:5-6)

a) God Delivers

- God is doing – we are receiving
- It is through the Spirit
- now and in eternity

b) God Determines

- what has value set by God, not us
- scripture clear about what counts
- faith expressing itself through love

For Freedom

2. Focus on the Truth (5:5-6)

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”

– John 15:10-13

For Freedom

3. Spot the Fake (5:7-12)

⁷ You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? ⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹ "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." ¹⁰ I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be.

For Freedom

3. Spot the Fake (5:7-12)

¹¹ Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹² As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!”

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3. Spot the Fake (5:7-12)

a) Who are you listening to?

- who cut in?
- can you spot the persuasion?
- 'my sheep know my voice...'

b) Tolerance not always healthy

- small amounts affect whole batch
- can avoid difficulty with compromise
- if actions can bring holiness – go all in

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4. Embrace Your Freedom

“¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.”

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4. Embrace Your Freedom

- The problem – believe that God's grace makes sin safe
- Grace = freedom to sin



For Freedom

4. Embrace Your Freedom

a) Freedom is not for...

- Self-indulging
- Abusing others (v.15)

b) Freedom to...

- serve
- love
- if we love Christ, eyes are on Him not self. It is here we discover we are free to serve as He did, and find great joy in giving not taking

For Freedom

So What?

1. Embrace what Jesus did
2. Know the truth
3. Stay on guard
4. Love deeply & serve freely