

STUDY GUIDE



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[start with prayer]

Missions Prayer Focus this week:
For God to call more church planters from CVC.

[set up]

Share about a time that you really felt freedom as a Christian (a breaking free from a certain sin, attitude, etc.)

[digging deeper]

Read 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.

Which of these verses captures your attention most? What does it mean?

Underline the verses that address legalism, put a square around the verses that address a license to sin, and put a circle around the verses that speak to liberty in Christ. Talk through this as a group.

Look again at verse 1.

- What has Christ set us free from?
- What forms of slavery try to draw us in?
- How do we stand firm?

Verse 4 is a challenging verse. It continues to reveal the inability to mix grace and faith with works and law related to salvation. Does it mean that we can lose our salvation? (This may require a little digging in Scripture.)

Verse 6 mentions faith working itself through love. Love directed from or to whom?

Verses 13-14 speak to one of the outcomes of our freedom through Christ. What is it?

Why would our freedom in Christ fuel our love for others? Give three examples of what that looks like:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

[living it out]

*For larger LifeGroups, this part will be more effective if you split into groups of 3-4.

What is one of the most meaningful realizations that these verses bring to you personally? (Write it down and share with your group.)

What is one of the ways that these verses are personally challenging you to grow (most needed applications)? (Write it down and share with your group)

[end with prayer]

Spend some extended time in prayer as a LifeGroup (or in your smaller groups).

- Thank God for the freedom we have in Christ.
- Confess any sinful attitudes or actions that God has brought to mind during this time.
- Ask God to help you to let your freedom in Christ fuel your expressed love for Him and for others.
- Pray over any other needs related to this topic that God brings to mind.