

# CELEBRATE FREEDOM

## Galatians 5:1-26

We have so much to be thankful for as Americans because our freedom is rooted from the principle of Biblical freedom. Yet, our identity isn't as Americans our identity is as Christians. We are Christians who happen to live in America. Paul is writing to the Galatians who were being influenced by false teachers. They thought the only way to be accepted by God was to be strictly bound by the Law. However, Paul shows that the Law's purpose wasn't something for them to live up to, but rather its use was to bring the realization that people *cannot* live a holy life in of themselves. Freedom from our guilt to the Law doesn't come from us trying to keep it, we can't (James 2:10)! Real freedom only comes through Jesus. Followers of Jesus have died to themselves, dying with Christ, so that we can be freed from the enslavement to sin. Freedom isn't being able to do whatever we want, that would lead to chaos! True freedom is the ability, through the power of God, to do what is right and glorifying to God!

### Read Galatians 5:1-26

(read aloud as a group or silently as individuals)

#### *Understanding*

1. Explain how Paul calls the Galatians back to the freedom that is only found in Christ.
2. How are followers of Jesus to use their freedom in Christ? (v. 1, 13-15)

#### *Application*

3. Pastor Ted shared that the freedom we experience in America has come at a high price. We need to thank God for this freedom. However, even more important is that we need to celebrate the freedom that has come to our soul through Jesus alone. True freedom comes when we are delivered from the wicked desires of our heart. The death and resurrection of Jesus have *saved us from* the consequences of and enslavement to our sin. In addition, it has *saved us to* a life free in Christ to do what is right and glorifying to God. Share how you have been made free in Christ from the slavery of sin and death. What are some things you have been freed from?

#### *Analysis*

4. Why do you think it is easy to get caught up in using our freedom to indulge in sinful behavior (v. 13)?

#### *Evaluation*

5. Because followers of Jesus have experienced true freedom in Christ, we can live a life of boldness and risk for the advancement of God's Kingdom (Matt. 6:33). Share how this freedom is going to help you to live more boldly, today, by the power of the Spirit! Be specific

#### **\*\*\*Optional**

Read James 1:22-25. If you did not get a chance to last week, share what you learned from John's letter that transformed the way you live on a daily basis. What will you do to continue to stay focused and connected to Jesus?

#### **Homework: Prior to or after your Growth Group please read...**

John 8:30-36; Rom. 6:15-23; 2 Cor. 3:6-18; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Matt. 11:28-30

...freedom that is brought through Christ alone