

Getting Started

Are there spoken or unspoken "rules" in your home? Give some examples. What happens when one of these rules is broken?

Word

Read aloud Galatians 5:1-15

1. As in past weeks in our Galatians series, it is helpful to read the passage in more than one translation. Listen to 5:1-15 in at least one more translation. How do the differences in the words help you to understand the passage better?

2. **In 5:1**, Paul states the theme of the letter: Freedom. Talk about this freedom. What do you understand freedom in this letter to be? What is the "yoke of slavery" he refers to?

3. **Read 5:2-6**. Summarize the point of this paragraph. Circumcision or uncircumcision have no value. We've seen this repeatedly in Galatians. Keeping the law has no value for our salvation. According to v.6, what does have value for Paul?

4. **Read 5:7-12**. Again, Paul returns to criticizing those who are leading the Galatians astray. How would you summarize Paul's attitude toward them?

5. **Read 5:13-15**. This paragraph further defines what freedom in Christ is. What do you learn about freedom here?

6. Legalism is often the term used to describe what Paul was so critical of in Galatians. Read the quote from Scot McKnight on the back of this insert. Discuss.

7. Can you think of examples from your life in churches where legalism got in the way of freedom? Or can you think of other examples of when legalism has been a hindrance to your freedom in Christ?

Share Invite the people in your group to share any blessings or concerns they have from the past week.

Prayer Pray for each other in sentence prayers.

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November 12, 2017

Galatians: Paul's Letter of Freedom

Galatians 5:1-15

Sermon Notes

1. What kind of freedom is Paul writing about in Galatians?

2. How is our freedom in Christ to be lived?

Legalism is any practice or belief that is added to the gospel that compromises the sufficiency of Christ as Savior and jeopardizes the adequacy of the Spirit in moral guidance. Secondly, then, legalism demands that one adopt a group's special markers in order to be fully acceptable to God.

Legalism then is the charge against you or me, often sensed at the deepest level, that we are not accepted by God in Christ and indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

Scot McKnight

People you want to pray for:

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