

DOING LIFE TOGETHER

10. Think of the circumstances of your life. What makes it challenging to love people?

11. What are some obstacles you face as you seek to use your freedom to engage with others and walk by the Spirit? What are three practical ways your group encourage and support one another to use their freedom this way (5:13)?

Prayer Requests

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January 10, 2016 Sermon Notes

The Seductive Side of Freedom

Judges 21:25

1. Freedom is a g_____ from G_____.

Luke 4:18
Romans 8:1
Romans 6:7
Romans 8:2
1 Peter 1:3-4

2. Freedom is g_____ a_____.

1 Corinthians 5:1-2a
Galatians 5:13

We live under obligation.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20
2 Corinthians 5:14
Philippians 1:21
Galatians 2:22

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

January 10, 2016

THINKING THINGS THROUGH

1. As you begin your new year and a new semester of growth group studies, share with the group some of the things you have been thankful for and some of the ways you have cultivated gratitude over the last few weeks.
2. In the sermon this weekend, we were challenged to remember the importance of using our freedom in Christ to submit to God's leading rather than our own personal desires. What sticks out to you as you consider your freedom in Christ? What about your freedom in Christ are you most thankful for?

DIGGING DEEPER

READ GALATIANS 5:1-12.

3. Paul wrote this letter as a caution or rebuke to the Galatian church—they were in danger of falling into a trap if they accepted the teaching that Gentiles must be circumcised to receive salvation. In this passage, what are the consequences of falling into this trap (v. 1-4)?
4. In verse 4, Paul says 'You have fallen away from grace'. He is concerned about the acceptance of this teaching that you can add something to Christ's sacrifice. What are some ways this can happen in our lives? How can you identify or become aware of this when it happens?

5. Re-read verses 5 and 6. What does it look like to 'eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope'? As you think about 'faith expressing itself through love', what seems easier: to take the time, energy and resources required to love someone as Christ would, or to follow a set of subjective rules and regulations?

6. Look at verses 7-12. Where did the teaching that kept them 'from obeying the truth' come from (v. 8)? Why does Paul use such harsh language? Why is understanding the nature of our freedom and using it properly so vital for our lives?

READ GALATIANS 5:13-26.

7. Verse 13 is the heart of Paul's message. What is Paul telling us we ought to do with our freedom? What might that look like? What does this kind of freedom tell us about who God is and what kind of relationship he wants with us?

8. What do these verses tell us about how to live into this freedom that we have been called to? What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we embrace and live in freedom?

9. What impact does 'living by the Spirit' have for our families? For our work relationships? For our growth group? For our private lives?