

Are We Truly Free

Galatians 5:1-13

I. Christian Freedom Means Salvation.

A. “You were called to be free.” in chapter 4 the apostle told of the bondage to the Old Testament law which the Judaizers were promoting. Now, he explains, we live only unto Christ (5:1-4).

B. We are called by freedom and for freedom—for the purpose of living a life free from sin (4:31). We are freed from the hopeless task of trying to save ourselves (Romans 3:20ff, 6:14). By His blood, Christ purchased our freedom.

II. Christian Freedom Means Limitation.

A. “Do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature.” Note Romans 7:8. Can freedom be wrong? Only if we do not use it right. To argue that because we have no detailed legalistic regulations, we can engage in all sorts of licentious conduct is wrong. We are freed from sin, but subject to Christ (Romans 6:1-6).

III. Christian Freedom Means Consecration.

A. “Use your freedom to ... serve one another in love.” Real freedom is living by the Spirit (vv. 16-18). It is bearing the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 22-26). Peter taught the same thing (1 Peter 2:16).

B. Our freedom should lead us to do right out of love for the Lord who freed us from sin. Freedom brings responsibility, whether as a citizen or a Christian. Our attitude toward those who abuse their freedom is shown in Galatians 6:1, 2. Jesus alone brings real freedom (John 8:36).