



Freedom, Faith & Love

Galatians 5:1-12

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!



Galatians 5:1

- For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and **do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.**

Do we have a problem with people submitting again to a yoke of slavery?



Teaching the **TRUTH**

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH



What is the “yoke of slavery?”



Matthew 11:29–30

- **Take my yoke** upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For **my yoke is easy**, and my burden is light.”

Two Yokes—One Choice



Yoke of Slavery

Personal righteousness is acquired in proportion to the degree in which one meticulously keeps the law of Moses

Jesus' Yoke

Personal righteousness is imputed by faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit empowers the believer to keep the law of Christ in devotion to their master

First and Old Covenant (Testament)	New, Eternal and Better Covenant (Testament)
Law of Moses (letter)	Law of Christ (Spirit)
Yoke of slavery (death)	Yoke of freedom (life)
Sabbath	First day of the week
Passover	Lord's Supper
Levitical Priesthood (Aaron)	Jesus our one and only Priest
Physical circumcision	Spiritual circumcision
Saved from Egypt	Saved from sin (forever forgiven)
Blood of bulls, lambs and goats (over and over again)	Innocent blood of the eternal son of God (once for all)
Not justified (declared righteous) by the works of the law	Justified (declared righteous) by faith, grace and Christ
Temporary Atonement	Eternal Redemption

I am in the yoke because I must believe and I must obey. Yet, I am not in the yoke alone. Christ has secured my righteousness and the Holy Spirit does life with me. I must yield to the Spirit and follow Christ as he leads me.





Acts 15:10

- Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by **placing a yoke on the neck** of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?



Galatians 5:1

- For freedom Christ **has set us free;**



What has the
believer been
“set free”
from?



Galatians 3:13

- Christ redeemed us from the **curse of the law** by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—

**The believer has been set free
from the burden of striving to keep
the law sufficiently to be found
righteous before our Holy and
perfect God on the day of judgment.**





Galatians 5:1

- For freedom Christ has set us free;

**What about
freedom in Christ?**

This freedom we have is a contentious issue:



Do we have the freedom to ignore the Sabbath?

Do we have the freedom to wear a bikini on a public beach?

Do we have the freedom to attend a rock concert?

Do we have the freedom to drink a glass of wine?

Do we have the freedom to change our gender?

Do we have the freedom to marry a person of the same sex?

Do we have the freedom to have an affair or premarital sex?

Does talking about these things make you uncomfortable?



Look How Paul Starts Out the Next Section of Text

v. 13



Galatians 5:13

- 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.

Why did Paul need to write v. 13?



2000 years ago humans were mistaking the grace of God for liberty to ignore His law.

Paul addressed this issue with the church at Rome.



Romans 6:15

- What then?
- Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace?
- By no means!



**What guidance
needs to be given
with this freedom?
What would you
tell someone?**



1 Corinthians 8:9

- But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.

The Freedom to Dance



**What happens when your
dancing becomes provocative?**



We must ask and answer:

In what way are we
no longer under the
law?

**Have we been given freedom to
ignore the principles and wisdom
found in the law?**



**Has the gospel removed God's
expectation for His people to be
holy?**



Matthew 5:17

Jesus said:

- “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.



Turn to Mark 12

v. 28-34

- And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “**Which commandment is the most important of all?**” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “**The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”**

- And the scribe said to him, “**You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”**
- And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “**You are not far from the kingdom of God.**”
- And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.



Is it legalistic to say:

- You must live a holy life.
- **Being drunk is sinful.**
- You can't be sexually provocative in your dress or conduct.
- **Sex outside of marriage is wrong.**
- Driving under the influence of any drug or beverage is not loving your neighbor as yourself.
- **God made you a male or a female.**



Look Again @

Mark 12:31



Mark 12:31

- The second is this: **'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'**

**Jesus is quoting from
Leviticus 19:18**



Leviticus 19:18

- You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: *I am* the LORD.



Leviticus 18:20–23

- And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her. ²¹ You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.



**You shall not give any of your children to
offer them to Molech**



Leviticus 18:20–23

- You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination. ²³ And you shall not lie with any animal and so make yourself unclean with it, neither shall any woman give herself to an animal to lie with it: it is perversion.



See the progression

- 1. Sleeping with neighbor's wife**
- 2. Aborting children**
- 3. Same sex marriage**
- 4. Bestiality**



Is God Immutable or Not?

Is the Bible Absolute
in Truth or does it
contain truth?



Galatians 5:2

- Look: I, Paul, say to you that **if you accept circumcision**, Christ will be of no advantage to you.

What does Paul mean here?



Accepting the requirement of circumcision is the first step of obedience to the Mosaic law.

It symbolically communicates my acceptance of the law of Moses as my means of being found righteous before God. But if you do that Paul says, “Christ will be of no advantage to you.”



Galatians 5:3

- I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.

No hybrids of grace and law or faith and works.



The early Jewish
church really
struggled with the
issue of
circumcision.

Baptists and Presbyterians believe in the same God, Christ, Spirit, Gospel and Bible but we are totally divided over baptism.



Presbyterians baptize infants as token and sign of the covenant of grace directly linking it to circumcision by way of Col 2:11-12.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/a-brief-defense-of-infant-baptism/>



Colossians 2:11–12

- In him also you were circumcised with **a circumcision** made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² **having been buried with him in baptism**, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.



#1

If (infant) baptism is
the appropriate
replacement for
circumcision why
didn't Paul say that.

If the early church was baptizing infants and young believers as a replacement for circumcision this is precisely where Paul should have set the Galatians straight.



**You don't need to be circumcised
baptism has replaced circumcision.**



Colossians 2:11–12

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#2

What is the
circumcision of the
heart?

Regeneration/
born again



#3

What kind of
baptism looks like
“having been
buried”?





Galatians 5:4

- You are severed from Christ,
you who would be
justified by the law; you
have fallen away from grace.



“Fallen away from grace” is the strongest statement Paul can use to warn the Galatians of the peril of the decisions they are making.

No one who is **“severed from Christ”** is saved. **You can argue they never had it or they lost it, but the end is the same.**

John 16:1

“I have said all these things to you **to keep you from falling away.**

Hebrews 3:12

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, **leading you to fall away** from the living God.

Hebrews 4:11

Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, **so that no one may fall** by the same sort of disobedience.

Hebrews 6:6

and **then have fallen away**, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities **you will never fall.**



Galatians 5:5

- For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.



Galatians 5:6

- For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, **but only faith working through love.**



This Faith is Alive It is Working



James 2:14

- What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?
- Can that faith save him?

Authentic faith manifests itself in love



- Like asking for forgiveness
- Like speaking truth into someone's life
- Like lending a hand
- Like being generous
- Like abstaining from sinful behavior
- Like being a friend
- Like showing kindness



Galatians 5:6

- For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, **but only faith working through love.**

Only Faith



Paul's most famous passage on Love

1 Corinthians 13:4-8



1 Corinthians 13:4–8

- Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends.



Galatians 5:7

- You were running well.
Who hindered you from
obeying the truth?



Galatians 5:8

- This persuasion is not from him who calls you.



Galatians 5:9

- A little leaven leavens the whole lump.



Galatians 5:10

- 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.

The No Other View



Paul is leaving no room for an alternative understanding of faith, grace, and their relationship to works.



Galatians 5:11

- But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.



Galatians 5:12

- I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!