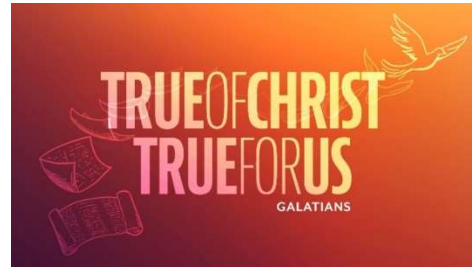


October 29, 2023
Sermon Discussion Guide
Galatians 5:13-26
Preacher: Brad



SUMMARY

Big Idea: Live Free. The Spirit Frees us from self and for others

Galatians chapter 5 is all about freedom - Christian Liberty. It's a narrow path that few find, and there are two primary threats or ditches on either side that we are prone to fall into. The first ditch Paul warns us about is legalism, and was covered last week in 5:1-12. In verses 13-26, the warning Paul gives for the second ditch is License. In both ditches, we lose freedom. Paul's main plea is that we stay on the path of freedom. The Spirit is the one who leads us on this path, and so, to walk in freedom means that we walk by the Spirit, are led by the Spirit, live by the Spirit and keep step with the Spirit. Fundamentally, the Spirit leads and guides us on the path of freedom by freeing us from ourselves, from our flesh, and for others - in love, serve one another.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

READ 5:13-15

1. What comes to mind when you think about Freedom? How does that compare to the freedom God offers?
2. Is freedom in the Bible consistent with "I am free to do what I want any old time"?
3. What makes the call to "in love serve one another" radical? (Note that the word "serve" is the same word as "slave") Is your freedom "for you" or "for others"?

READ 5:16-21

4. In the war against the works of the flesh, Bob Thune suggest that we have a tendency to default to either resolution (with a high view of myself and my own willpower, resolve to fight), or resignation (it's too hard, I'll just resign, give in and give up the fight).
 - a. What are the dangers of each? Which one do you lean more toward?
 - b. What other path is there?
5. IN the list of the works of the flesh, Which ones on the list are more, even within the church, more "culturally acceptable/understandable"? Which ones, when seen in the lives of others, are you tempted to scoff at? How does such an attitude relate to Luke 18:10-14?

READ 5:22-25

6. What role does fruit play in the life of a believer? Discuss: "We are saved by faith and not by fruit, but we are not saved by fruitless faith"
7. Why is it significant that Paul uses the singular, "fruit", as opposed to the plural, "fruits"? What might a deficiency in one virtue imply about other virtues in which we may think we are strong or doing well? (Ex. If I think I am patient, yet I am harsh (not kind) when my kids interrupt for the 100th time, am I really patient?)
8. What recourse is there for those who are characterized by the works of the flesh and who have a fruit of the spirit deficiency? V24. How does this relate to Luke 9:23-24?