

“Stand Firm in the Freedom of Christ”

Galatians 5:1-15

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. 7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is. 11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. 12 I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off! 13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

I. Stand Firm in the Freedom Christ Has Provided (Galatians 5:1-6)

A. Do Not Return to the Bondage of Legalism

Paul warns the Galatians not to become: **“entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”** (Galatians 5:1)

B. Live by Faith Through the Power of the Spirit

Paul says: **“For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.”** (Galatians 5:5)

II. Guard Yourself Against Anything That Corrupts the Gospel (Galatians 5:7-12)

A. Reject False Teaching That Leads Away from Christ

Paul says: **“This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you.”** (Galatians 5:8)

B. Remember That the Gospel Centers on the Cross of Christ

Paul says: **“And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.”** (Galatians 5:11)

III. Use Your Freedom to Serve Others Through Love (Galatians 5:13-15)

A. Freedom Is Not Permission to Follow the Flesh

Paul warns: **“Do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh.”**

B. Freedom Finds Its Fulfillment Through Love

Paul summarizes the entire law:

“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’” (Galatians 5:14)

Reflective Questions

1. Am I truly resting in the freedom Christ has provided, or am I still trying to earn God’s acceptance through my own efforts?
2. Are there areas of my life where I have allowed false beliefs, traditions, or personal expectations to replace the truth of God’s Word?
3. How can I use the freedom Christ has given me to serve and love others more faithfully this week?