



## Sermon Questions

Date: *November 5, 2023* | Scripture: *Galatians 5:1-15*

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. Paul is closing his denouncement of the false gospel. Explain in your own words what the false gospel is.
3. Slavery and freedom are key concepts in Galatians 5. Paul says that adhering to a false gospel is to place oneself under a yoke of slavery again. What does slavery under a false gospel look like? How did you experience slavery apart from Christ before you became a Christian?
4. Freedom in Christ isn't just a freedom *from* sin, it is also a freedom *to* a new life. What does that positive freedom look like? In other words, what have we been freed to do?
5. How does our broader culture define freedom? How is freedom in Christ different than the definitions of freedom found outside the church?

### *Inward Grace in Action*

It might be helpful to have a conversation about the conversation that's happening here. How did you feel reading through Gal 5:1-12? Paul is writing with a fervor and intensity many of us might find uncomfortable. It doesn't seem very saintly for an apostle to write "I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!" Yet God in his sovereignty delighted to call this fiery letter his own holy, inspired word.

The Bible tells us to speak the truth in love. Often we turn this into a dichotomy. Some of us are strong on truth and weak on love. We love being right and confronting others when they are wrong. If that's you, you might resonate with Gal 5:1-12, but then lose interest in 5:13-15. Some of us are strong on love but shy away from truth. We want everyone to feel cared for and welcome, but we hate conflict and dread the thought of calling someone out when caught in sin. If that's you, Gal 5:1-12 might be unsettling while 5:13-15 is much easier to accept.

The reality is, there is no tension between truth and love. Paul is being fully loving by explicitly calling out the false gospel because the danger it poses is so great. Turning to a false gospel is equivalent to Lot's wife turning back to Sodom. A harsh warning and rebuke is necessary. However, a call to love of neighbor and to peace is also necessary.

- Do you tend to skew toward love or truth? Think about the way you handle conflict with fellow believers.
- What would it look like for you to grow toward a full unity between love and truth?

**ACTION:** Pray this week asking God to guide you as you speak the truth in love. If there is anyone in your life falling into the slavery of the false gospel, ask God how you can warn them with both love and truth.