



THE LETTER TO THE GALATIANS:
Embracing Freedom

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2021

Sermon-based Guide
Questions for Reflection and Discussion

Week of January 31
Galatians Chapter 5

Primary Scripture: Galatians 5:1, 13-26

Secondary Scripture: John 8:31-47

Sermon Summary: *For Freedom, Christ Has Set Us Free*

To this point, Paul has mostly spoken about how the freedom we get from Christ saves us *from* false offers of freedom (primarily the law). But here in chapter five he pivots and tells us what the freedom of Christ frees us *for*. This is the **application** of Christian freedom. Paul defines it first and foremost as a freedom to love others. Set free from the law, set free by the grace of Christ, we are now free to love one another (which is, ironically, the law of Christ).

Paul plays this out; that our freedom frees us from selfishness and frees us to see others as Christ sees them, and to act accordingly. At the end of the chapter, Paul does a side-by-side comparison of fleshly desires (bad) and the fruit of the spirit (good). This comparison is an outworking of the freedom we have to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Questions

1. Do you feel free from the traps of your life from which Jesus has freed you?
2. Do you see your freedom being lived out in how you love your neighbor as yourself?
What examples can you give of that?
3. If the “fruit of the spirit” is not just an internal attribute but an external fruit for others to enjoy, how “fruity” are you? Are there specific areas of fruitfulness where you see growth in your life? Are there other areas where the fruit needs pruning, or nurturing by the Spirit, in greater abundance so that you grow in that area?
4. Brainstorm a list of values that your group is “for” (collectively supports & aspires to). What practices can your group nurture so that these are lived values in which fruit is continually produced?