

# CROSSROADS BIBLE CHURCH

## GROWTH GROUP CURRICULUM

October 13, 2019

### “GALATIANS 5:1-12”

For more information or to join a Growth Group, please visit our Growth Group page online at [cbclife.org/groups](http://cbclife.org/groups) or call the church office at 408.288.4115.

#### QUICK REVIEW

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, did you hear something for the first time that stuck with you? Was there anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What is one thing from Sunday's message you are likely to remember and tell your friends about later?

#### MY STORY

1. This passage talks about the lengths and extent of the freedom that we have in Christ. Think and share about a time that you were given complete freedom as a child, and either used that freedom wisely or abused that freedom and got yourself into trouble.
2. In your life as a Jesus follower, have you ever struggled with the idea of complete freedom in Christ? Have you yourself personally struggled with the distinction between objective freedom and subjective freedom?

Allow these questions to drive personal conversations and relationships. You may linger on question two for a while just because of the nature of the question. Don't push through it just to get to the questions themselves, really work through what freedom looks like in people's lives.

#### DIGGING DEEPER

#### READ GALATIANS 5:1-12

1 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!

1. The thesis of Paul's last chapters is stated in 5:1. What does Paul teach in these two sentences?  
2.

That Christ died for our freedom, that we have been given immeasurable grace at the cross and we shouldn't return to the old way of living. Paul is really working through this idea of slavery being tied to a work of attempting to be justified through the law rather than living by faith and receiving salvation by grace.

2. What is Paul warning the Galatians against in verses 5:2-4? Is Paul saying that the Galatians who are real Christians are going to lose their salvation (v. 4)? How does verse ten shed light on verse four?

This should give us confidence that those of us who are in Christ will never lose our salvation, it is an understanding that if we really have come to grips with what Jesus did for us on the cross, our desire is going to be to faithfully serve Him out of reverence rather than an attempt to try and justify ourselves.

## DIGGING DEEPER (cont.)

3. Why do you think Paul would say we “hope for righteousness” (v. 5) when in 3:6 and elsewhere he says we \*have\* righteousness? How can we “wait” for it practically?

Talk about the difference between justification and sanctification here. We are fully justified in Christ by His finished work on the cross, now we have the privilege to wait for sanctification and to “work out our salvation” by loving those around us and becoming more and more like Jesus Christ.

4. What does it mean that the gospel makes both “circumcision and uncircumcision” (religion and irreligion) equally valueless (v. 5-6)?

Your background, education, history, race, gender, etc. (anything that works to define you from a cultural perspective) have been removed and there is nothing now that hinders someone from a relationship with God through Jesus. Our religious upbringing can be a danger because we rely on that to say that we are justified before God and forget about the grace of Jesus. Likewise those who have little to no religious upbringing are still found to be acceptable to God through Jesus if they turn to Him.

5. From verses 5:13-15 answer the question, “Why does a Christian obey God?”

A Christian obeys God because they love and adore God and want to respond to His goodness by living the way He desires. We obey God because it is now our deepest desire, not because we are fully obligated to do so in order to gain salvation.

6. Compare verse 5:1 and verse 5:13. What two different misuses of gospel freedom does Paul spell out? What errors in thinking are behind each misuse?

Freedom must always be used to love God and love others. Misuses come when we say things like, “I’m under grace, God won’t care and nobody will ever find out.” That’s a misuse of freedom and places the focus on us and our behavior rather than the way we demonstrate love to those around us.

7. Summarize: In what ways are Christians “free” from the law and in what way are they not?

This may harken back to the “My story” section... working through obedience, working through ideas of what is true freedom from the law. Can we really do anything and be ok under God’s grace? As Ryan highlighted on Sunday, and as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10, all things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. Ask people if they struggled with Paul’s assertion that all things are lawful.