

DISCUSS

What does Paul identify as the purpose for Christ setting us free?

How would you define “freedom”? How would you say the world defines it?

In what ways is your definition similar? In what ways is it different?

What does Paul describe as the consequence of accept circumcision?

What would the act of accepting circumcision within the Galatian community represent (5:3–4)?

As you think back on what we’ve studied in Galatians up to this point, why does seeking justification through obedience to the Law lead to slavery?

How should that shape the way we think about “running well” (v. 7)?

What does Paul identify as the true work of Christian freedom?

How does Paul counsel the Galatians to use their freedom in Christ?

What does Paul say fulfills “the whole law”?

How do we, as Christians, live out freedom in a way that denies “the flesh”?

What does verse 17 make clear about the Christian life?

How do Paul's list of the works of the flesh (vv. 19–22) and his list of the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 22–23) differ from one another?

What does the phrase “and things like these” (v. 21b) suggest?

What is the difference between “work” and “fruit”?

As you read over Paul's description of the fruit of the Spirit, do you feel the impulse to change yourself? What would it look like to follow that conviction with a reliance on the Spirit to produce fruit in your life?

In what ways do you struggle most to rely on the Spirit? In what ways do you tend to revert to self-reliance to produce spiritual fruit?

Of the different forms of the fruit of the Spirit, which describes the area you most need to grow in? What are some practical steps you could take this week in asking the Holy Spirit to bring about growth in that area?

What do the active verbs in verses 24–25 suggest about the Christian life?

What are some practical ways you can keep in step with the Spirit?

As you reflect on this session, where do you find yourself most in need of freedom?

What can you do this week to live differently where God has placed you? Who can you serve out of the freedom you have received in Christ?

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Ask God to teach you what it means to keep in step with the Spirit every time you pray this week.

Memorize: Commit Galatians 5:1 to memory this week. Bring the verse to mind to remember that Jesus has set you free from sin and death.

Serve: Choose one person in your life to lovingly serve this week. Ask God to strengthen you and humble you as you meet that person's needs.

Illustrate: Draw what it looks like to live in slavery to sin versus freedom in Christ. Use Galatians to inspire your illustration.

Choose: Pick one of the expressions of the fruit of the Spirit to focus on this week. Pray that God would put you in situations where you can practice growing in that expression of spiritual fruit. Journal about your experience.