

**Week Five-*The Figment of Freedom***  
***Galatians 5:1-6, 13-15***

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day One**

1. Read Galatians 5. Which verse(s) do you remember hearing before? What makes that concept or quote memorable?
2. Paul is forcing the issue. What two different paths to God are represented in this discussion? Which path does Paul condemn as wrong?
3. How is accepting the obligation to keep God's law like slavery?
4. If you had only Galatians 5:5-6 for understanding Christianity, how would you describe the truth of the Christian faith?
5. Circumcision was something God commanded of the Israelites from the time of Abraham as a sign of faithfulness to God. Read Colossians 2:16-17 and explain why those Old Testament expectations are no longer required of the faithful. What purpose did they serve? Why is that purpose no longer needed?
6. Paul said those who have accepted the obligation to still abide by the Old Testament laws have fallen away from grace. (Galatians 5:4) What does that term mean?
7. Conclude your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray a prayer of gratitude to God for a relationship based on love rather than obedience to laws.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two**

8. What does "freedom" mean to you? What does it mean as a citizen of a nation, as a Christian, as an individual?
9. Some people are enslaved by chains and guns. What are some other ways people are enslaved?
10. Read Galatians 5:9. What does it mean?
11. Describe how "a little yeast" could creep into your faith, your congregation, your witness? Give an example of how legalism might get started in a church today.
12. Why do some prefer rules rather than a relationship and accomplishments based only on faith expressing itself

through love? (Galatians 5:6)

13. If the law is not given to show us the path to God, why do we still teach and believe in the Ten Commandments?
14. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray to always maintain a proper understanding of the Law and Gospel as given to us by God.

### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three**

15. Read Galatians 5:13-15. What's the difference between the freedom we have in Christ versus a license to sin?
16. How might some misunderstand the freedom of faith and believe that any and every thing is perfectly acceptable to God?
17. Consider Paul's explanation in 1 Corinthians 10:23-24. What point does he make about the perfection that is given to us in Christ Jesus (not earned) and the continuing expectation that we live godly lives?
18. Galatians 5:14 says that the entire law of God is fulfilled in one word. What is that word? Read also Romans 13:8-10. If we could demonstrate "perfect love," why would there be no need for the law?
19. Are we able to demonstrate perfect love? Why not? Based on that understanding, what then is one of the important purposes God's law provides for imperfect people?
20. Do you know someone who seems to define the Christian faith as obedience and seems more oppressed by being religious than enjoying the freedom and joy of a relationship with God? How can we help people who have distorted the Christian faith and become legalistic?
21. End your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for Christian leaders, Bible Class teachers, and Christian parents to teach the faith based on love and gratitude for all God has done for us in Christ, rather than expectations of obedience.

### **Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four**

22. Read Galatians 5:17-22. What does Paul mean when he talks about the war between the flesh and the spirit? Is everything physical sinful (eating, sexuality, exercise, seeing, hearing etc.), or does he define flesh in a different way?
23. What does he mean in Galatians 5:18?

24. In the Greek language, present-tense verbs imply ongoing action. All the deeds of the flesh are present tense, suggesting more than a one-time action. Why is that important?
25. Matthew 12:31 and Mark 3:29 describe blasphemy against the Holy Spirit as the only sin that is unforgivable. How would you explain that phrase?
26. If denial of faith is the only sin that ultimately leads to eternal death, why are deeds of the flesh on a list of behaviors that can lead to ultimate judgment?
27. How do guilt and shame, or hardness of heart, have the ability to ultimately affect your faith?
28. Conclude your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for continued sensitivity to the destructive nature of sin and its potential to lead you and others away from God.

**Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five**

29. Finish reading Galatians 5:22-26. What is the difference between a gift of the spirit and the fruit of the spirit? Which one is unique to a person, and which one is found in all mature Christians?
30. Read the conclusion of Galatians 5:23, but inserting the phrase, “Against such values God has placed no limits.” Why are these qualities the natural result of mature faith?
31. Which of these qualities do you find easiest for you? Hardest?
32. What can be done to increase this fruit in your life?
33. What does God warn against at the end of the chapter after listing the fruit of the spirit?
34. Read Luke 22:24. What were the disciples arguing about? How did Jesus deal with their behavior?
35. Read Paul’s reflection on the subject in Philippians 3:4-9. What did Paul want to boast about?
36. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Pray for the Lord to send an extra measure of His Holy Spirit into you.