



DRAW NEAR TO LIVE FREE *Galatians 5:1-15*

DRAW NEAR REMINDERS

You DRAW NEAR by ENGAGING in your group.

- Holidays are coming; does your group have any party plans in the weeks/ months to come?

You DRAW NEAR by BEING EXPECTANT.

- Be expectant at group... someone pray now, before you get started into your group time, for the power and presence of God in your group meeting!

INTRO QUESTION

1. This week's message addressed freedom vs. imprisonment. Is anyone here claustrophobic (fear of small spaces)? Has anyone ever been locked in a small space? What was the situation? What do you feel when you're trapped?

READ TOGETHER

Take some time as a group to read our passage from Galatians this week:

Galatians 5:1-15

(If you want more context to the idea of bond and free or covenants of law and freedom read Paul's Old Testament example in Galatians 4:21-31.)

DISCUSS TOGETHER

1. What stuck out to you or what challenged you from this week's message or bible passage?
2. When you think of the word 'freedom' or 'liberty' what do you think of? Why?

3. When most people think of God, they think of restriction – do's and don'ts. Pastor Ben said "FREEDOM WAS GOD'S IDEA." Which of these do you gravitate toward when you think of God; a God of freedom or a God of restriction? Explain your thoughts?
4. Galatians 5:1 says, "...*Christ set us free...*" In other words, WE DO NOT FREE OURSELVES. What has Christ set you free from? Who is willing to share?
5. Galatians 5:1 says, "...keep standing firm..." as though there is a current that pushes against your freedom. It's difficult to STAND FIRM IN FREEDOM. Since becoming a Christian, what things in life tend to suck you back into captivity?
6. Galatians 5:14, "*For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*" We are free to love and serve others. Do you typically think of this as freedom? Has your heart to serve others changed since becoming a Christian? Why or why not?

NEXT

Based on what we've looked at this week what is the NEXT thing that you need to do? How can we help?

1. Do you find yourself in a 'prison' now? Has something been holding you down or holding back your life?
2. Are you wrongly giving yourself freedom to sin? Do you want accountability?
3. How can we use freedom from selfishness to show love to someone else this week?

CONNECT

Take some time to CONNECT together and PRAY for one another

- Are there any areas of your life that we can celebrate?
- Are there any areas of your life where we can help?
- Are there any areas of your life that we can be praying about?

FURTHER READING

Far from being oppressed, the slave of Christ is truly free. We have been set free from sin by the Son of God who said, “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” ([John 8:36](#)). Now the Christian can truly say, along with Paul, “Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death” ([Romans 8:2](#)). We now know the truth and that truth has set us free ([John 8:32](#)). Paradoxically, through our bondage to Christ, we have also become sons and heirs of the Most High God ([Galatians 4:1–7](#)). As heirs, we are partakers of that inheritance—eternal life—which God confers on all His children. This is a privilege beyond any earthly treasure we could ever inherit, while those in bondage to sin inherit only spiritual death and an eternity in hell.

Why, then, do so many Christians live as though they are still in bondage? For one thing, we often rebel against our Master, refusing to obey Him and clinging to our old lives. We hold on to the sins that once bound us to Satan as our master. Because our new nature still lives in the old fleshly nature, we are still drawn to sin. Paul tells the Ephesians to “put off” the old self with its deceit and corruption and “put on” the new self with its righteousness. Put off lying, and put on truthfulness. Put off stealing, and put on usefulness and work. Put off bitterness, rage, and anger, and put on kindness, compassion, and forgiveness ([Ephesians 4:22–32](#)). We have been set free from the bondage of sin, but we often put the chains back on because part of us loves the old life.

Furthermore, often we don’t realize that we have been crucified with Christ ([Galatians 2:20](#)) and that we have been reborn as completely new creatures ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). The Christian life is one of death to self and rising to “walk in the newness of life” ([Romans 6:4](#)), and that new life is characterized by thoughts about Him who saved us, not thoughts about the dead flesh that has been crucified with Christ. When we are continually thinking about ourselves and indulging the flesh in sins we have been freed from, we are essentially carrying around a corpse, full of rotteness and death. The only way to bury it fully is by the power of the Spirit who is the only source of strength. We strengthen the new nature by continually feeding on the Word of God, and through prayer we obtain the power we need to escape the desire to return to the old life of sin. Then we will realize that our new status as slaves to Christ is the only true freedom, and we will call upon His power to “not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires” ([Romans 6:12](#)).

Excerpt taken from www.GotQuestions.org. To read the full article go to <https://www.gotquestions.org/freedom-in-Christ.html>