

GLC  ESSENTIALS

GALATIANS

Session 5

EXPLORE

“FOR FREE”

Do this in pairs within your small group.

List down as many things that you can have, or will probably have or experience for free in your lifetime.

Examples:

Food tasting at groceries or with a catering company

Seashells lying on the beach

Do this for 3 minutes and at the end of it, compare your list with the other pairs. The pair that has the most items listed down is the winner. Just for fun, you can award the winning pair with something that you got for free! :)

ACTIVITY PROCESS GUIDE

1. How would you describe your experience in coming up with a list of free things that you have, or can probably have in your lifetime? Was it easy or not to come up with the list? Why do you think that is so?

2. Sometimes, you can have something or experience something for free because someone else paid for it on your behalf. Have you ever experienced something like that? What have you received for free recently through the generosity of someone else? Describe the situation and the kind of person/s that made it possible for you to enjoy something for free.

In Galatians 5, Paul continues with his appeal that the Galatians leave their wrong view of salvation by works and conforming to the culture and customs of the time. The emphasis in this chapter is on freedom from the bondage of legalism that is in religious laws.

True freedom is found in the righteousness of Christ. He then continues with manifestations of true freedom in Christ in the new life of the believer.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

SECTION	TOPIC
Verse 1 - 4	Freedom in Christ
Verses 5 - 6	Righteousness Attained Through Christ
Verses 7 - 12	Warning Against False Teachers
Verse 13	Definition of True Freedom
Verse 14 - 15	The Evidence of True Freedom in the Christian Life
Verse 16 - 25	Living by the Spirit

Write down Galatians 5:1.

1. Paul says that those who are in Christ are freed from the **PENALTY** of sin. Do you recall what the penalty of sin is? (Romans 6:23).

2. *Read Romans 6:14*
What does God command us to do in this verse?

3. What gave us freedom from the power of sin over us?

4. *Read Galatians 5:3-4.*

Legalism is **depending** on our religious efforts (obeying the commandments, observing certain practices, etc.) or good works to earn God's favor so that He will grant us salvation. In the words of the apostle Paul, "*you are seeking to be justified (declared righteous) by law.*"

Paul emphasizes the need to stand firm and not return to being in bondage to legalism.

For a Christian, what does being enslaved to legalism reveal about us? Discover the answers in the following verses:

Galatians 5:3

Galatians 5:4

If we are still enslaved to the idea of righteousness by our good works or religious practices, then this shows that we do not avail of God's grace offered in the finished work of Jesus on the cross. Only faith in

Jesus allows us to receive God's grace and justifies us from sin.

**Justification by LAW
is NOT compatible
with justification through FAITH.**

5. Write down Galatians 5:5-6.

What can we hope for by faith and through the Spirit? v.5

What is the reason for this hope? v. 6

According to v.6, does observance of the law (e.g. being circumcised) mean anything in terms of obtaining righteousness? Why?

Righteousness is the LOVE of GOD in and at work in us.

Two kinds of righteousness are described in the Bible. One is known as **POSITIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS** and the other one is known as **PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

You have positional righteousness through Jesus Christ and what He has done for you on the cross. As a believer in Jesus, all your sins have been washed away by His blood. Positionally, in the eyes of God, you have been made righteous. You have been made holy by Jesus.

After you have been declared righteous by God through Christ (positional righteousness), the Bible says you now learn to live in righteousness. That is practical righteousness. It is living out what Christ has given you (His righteousness).

Practical holiness means you “walk in a manner worthy of your calling” (Ephesians 4:1) so you choose to do what pleases God and benefits others, not just yourself.

6. Read Galatians 5:7-12

Paul warns the Galatian believers about false teachers who hinder them from “running the race” of faith as well as disturbing or troubling them.

How do you think will listening and following false teachers affect our faith in Christ?

Here are some ways that false teachers will affect our faith in Jesus Christ:

- Our spiritual growth is **hindered**
It's possible that some Christians who have come to know the Lord many years ago have stopped growing and maturing in Christ because of the influence of false teaching.
- They promote a doctrine of obtaining salvation through our **efforts** and **good works**
- We **compromise** doctrinal truth which has damaging consequences

Check yourself! Are you under the influence of a false teacher?

In essence, Paul was telling the Galatians that they “were called to freedom.” **True Freedom** is the ability to say “**no**” to sin and “**yes**” to do **God’s will**.

True liberty is the **Power** to do what is **right** and to **refuse** to do what is **wrong**.

7. *Read Galatians 5:13-14.*

What commands did Paul give for using the freedom we have in Christ? See verse 13.

Negative command:

Positive command:

How do you think the whole Law (God’s commands) is fulfilled in this one command, “you shall love your neighbor as yourself”?

The Gospel of Grace grants us **TRUE FREEDOM** — freedom to do what is **RIGHT**, freedom to **LOVE OTHERS**.

Christ has called us to live in **true freedom** by **walking in love**. When you walk in love, you are not dependent on feelings to do the right thing.

You use your freedom to **choose** to do the **right** thing even if you don't feel like it.

You will **choose not** to do the wrong thing (sin) even if your feelings tell you to do so.

8. Write down Galatians 5:16-17.

How are we to walk in love every day? See verse 16.

What do these verses identify as the “deeds” of the flesh?

In contrast, what is the fruit of the Spirit?

**The Christian life is not hard,
it is IMPOSSIBLE!
You need God's supernatural power
to help you live the Christian life.
You need the power to obey God's will
every day, and this is why Christians
are commanded to walk by the Spirit.**

What does "walking in the Spirit" look like? If you walk in the Spirit, you...
(look up the verses and supply the answers):

1. "Will not _____ the _____ of
the _____." [Galatians 5:16]
2. Will experience constant conflict against the _____.
[Galatians 5:17]
3. "...are _____ by the Spirit, you are not under the
_____." [Galatians 5:18]
4. Your life will bear the _____--love, joy,
peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and
self-control. [Gal. 5:22-23]

EXPRESS

Doodle/draw your thoughts or create a mind map on what you discovered from Galatians 5 about TRUE FREEDOM in Christ. Share your output with a partner and/or to your entire small group.

Journal your thoughts on what you discovered from Galatians 5 about the true gospel. Share with your small group members a summary of what you wrote down.

What truth made the most impact on you from our study?

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In Paul's time, there were those who believed that a non-Jewish man has to be circumcised first before he can truly be saved. In today's study, we saw how Paul argued against that belief and identified that as legalism, or being in bondage to the Law.

In our time today, what would be an example of a religious practice that people say you need to perform in order for you to be saved? In other words, they believe that if you don't do it, you cannot go to heaven. Is this something you personally believe in? Why or why not?

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How would you apply the principle of true freedom in Christ within the week?

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By God's grace through Jesus, this next two weeks, I will walk in the Spirit daily by: [Check box when done]

Day One

Day Eight

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 Day Two

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 Day Nine

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 Day Three

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 Day Ten

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 Day Four

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 Day Eleven

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 Day Five

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 Day Twelve

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 Day Six

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 Day Thirteen

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 Day Seven

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 Day Fourteen