

Helpful Resources

The Bible Project



Free Commentary



Sermon Big Idea

The gospel grants believers a freedom that must be guarded, grounded, and guided.

Read the Text

In your group, read the passage out loud, with each person reading a verse.

Head: Grasping the Text

Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.

1. Paul uses the phrase 'yoke of slavery' (5:1). What was the 'yoke' the Galatians were being pressured to take on? What does that phrase communicate about what legalism actually does to a person? Moreover, how does this make the work of Christ meaningless in someone's life (5:6)?
2. Sometimes flesh simply means physical body — "I live in the flesh" (2:20). But most of the time it means something much more specific: a person's natural orientation away from God and toward self. When Adam sinned, the entire human race became bent inward toward self. Paul warns against using freedom to 'indulge the flesh.' What were the Judaizers doing to persuade the Galatians? How was the battle with the flesh, spilling outwards and become destructive toward others (5:15)?
3. 'The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.' (5:6) Then he quotes Leviticus 19:18 — 'Love your neighbor as yourself' — as the fulfillment of the entire law (5:14). How does love fulfill the law without replacing it? Why is love the primary gauge or measurement of genuine

Christian living? How do faith and love work together? (Other helpful passages: 1 Thess. 1:3, 1 Cor. 13:13, Eph. 1:15-16.)

4. Paul asks, 'Who cut in on you?' (5:7). What does the running metaphor communicate about how false teaching works? Why is it significant that they had been 'running a good race' before? How does the yeast metaphor add insight into how deception and doctrinal compromise works? Share any example you've seen.

Heart: Grasping the Internal Transformation

Goal: Examine how the text reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations.

5. The Temptation to Judge: The sermon notes that "Judaizing" often feels like faithfulness rather than heresy. Where in your heart do you find yourself creating a "spiritual hierarchy" based on your own traditions, preferences, or standards, and using those as a measuring stick for others?
6. Reflect on the fire illustration: freedom channeled outward warms a community; freedom turned inward burns it down. Which direction has your freedom been flowing in your closest relationships? In your church community? In how you treat people who think or believe differently than you? If you need to refine your direction, where can you ask the Spirit for new guidance?

Hands: Grasping Your Next Step

Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out as a disciple.

7. Ground Yourself: The sermon warns: "Don't wait to be deceived before you decide what you believe." Choose one core doctrine of the gospel or an area of Christian living that you'd like to further study, explore, or discuss with a friend so that your roots are deep enough to spot false or unbiblical teaching.
8. Guide Your Freedom: Paul says our freedom should be guided by love and service (5:6). Identify one specific person in your community or circle this week whom you can serve humbly. Actively look for a way to use your liberty to "warm the room" for them, rather than letting your freedom be used to elevate your own voice or defend your own rights.