

Freedom! A Study in Galatians

Lessons We Learn

1. Christians are meant enjoy freedom.
2. Our freedom is to be expressed properly.

The Story Line of Galatians

Many Jews were displaced from their homes and moved to Galatia. (Today's Turkey)

On his first and second missionary journeys, Paul led these Jews to faith in Jesus.

Shortly afterwards, other "teachers" visited these churches and told the people that they needed to follow Jewish law, even though they were now Christians.

Paul heard about this, and while in Corinth, wrote a terse letter to say, DON'T live by law, ENJOY your freedom!

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel." - Galatians 1:6

"You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?..." - Galatians 3:1

"...how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!" - Galatians 4:20

"You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?...¹² As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves." - Galatians 5:7,12



Understanding Freedom

- There are some things in Scripture that are clearly wrong!
- There are some things in Scripture that are clearly right!
- There are some things in Scripture, in society, in cultures, and in time periods that are questionable. (grey areas).

Today's Story

"When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, 'You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?'" - Galatians 2:11-14

1. The Apostle Peter, because of his new freedom in Jesus Christ, began eating and associating with Gentiles.
2. When his Jewish friends showed up, Peter pretended he didn't know the Gentiles.
3. Paul challenged Peter's hypocrisy.

Our Application - Freedom From Our Chains!

1. Christians often attach chains to themselves that are not necessarily Scriptural ... and these are not all bad.
2. Chains that we attach to ourselves, for whatever reason, are often the hardest to break.
3. Chains that are dependent on the crowd or the situation are very dangerous to our faith and also to the faith of others. (one exception!)
4. Chains often times lead to hypocrisy of some form.
5. When others see how you handle your "chains" they can be led astray.
6. The worst kind of "chains" are those that you impose on others.

The Book of Galatians – At a Glance

Writer: Apostle Paul

Date: 57 A.D.

Theme: Freedom

Key Verse: 5:1

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4. Chains oftentimes lead to _____ of some form.
5. When _____ see how you handle your "chains" they can be led astray.
6. The worst kind of "chains" are those that you _____ on others.