



Series: Thriving in Grace

Passage: Galatians 5:1-15

Title: Standing Firm in the Freedom Jesus Gives Me

Speaker: Pastor David Menard 4/30/2025

Discussion Starter – What words or images come into your mind when you hear the words liberty and freedom or bondage and slavery? How do those images reflect our situation as people who have a saving relationship with Jesus and are endeavoring to live in His image?

Read Galatians 5:1-6

1. What is the “yoke of bondage” Paul is describing in verse 1?
2. What responsibilities does Paul say the Galatians assumed when they chose to submit to circumcision? What is the source of the burden of responsibility that accompanies circumcision?
3. What are the results of our disobedience to God’s law? Where is the source of sin’s power leading to the sting of death? (1 Cor 15:56)
4. How is our justification achieved apart from law? (verses 4-6)
 - a. How does John explain this hope of righteousness by faith? (1 John 3:2-3) How does this differ from “attempting to be justified by the law” in verse 4?

Read Galatians 5:7-15

5. Who hindered the Galatians from running well? What was it about their teaching that was appealing to the Galatians?
 - b. What reasons were given to explain why we gravitate to performance-based religion, or trying to earn or justify God’s love?
6. What is the source of performance-based religion? (verse 8)
7. How does Paul describe the possible abuse of liberty in which we are to stand fast?
8. How does this relate to and balance with the exhortation to “stand fast in the liberty” of verse 1?
9. Which do you think is a greater concern to Paul in this epistle?
 - c. Which is a greater concern to you in your life and the lives of those around you?
10. What is Paul’s straightforward guidance to evaluate our balance between liberty and obedience? What is the inevitable result of either performance-based religion or carnal abuse of liberty?