

## MAIN POINT

*The gospel brings true freedom—freedom from sin and freedom to serve others in love.*

## INTRODUCTION

What did freedom mean to you when you were 18 years old? When you had young children? What does it mean to you today?

Recall a time when you felt “imprisoned” by an unfulfilling job, a bad habit, illness, or financial debt. How did you become free from that situation? How would you describe the sense of freedom you experienced at that time?

Some people mistakenly believe Christians are free to do whatever they want to do—and only what they want to do. They need to understand Christian freedom is the freedom to obey Christ and reflect His character. Others assume they must perform good works to solidify their relationship with God. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul emphasized that God had called them to freedom, not to legalism. Yet they were not free to be selfish. Rather, they were free to follow the Holy Spirit’s leadership.

## DISCUSSION

### > READ GALATIANS 5:1-15.

What contrast did Paul draw in verse one? How did he describe slavery? What do you think “the yoke of slavery” symbolized?

What false teaching were the Galatian believers being exposed to? How did that false teaching undermine the message of grace?

Why would those who accepted circumcision be submitting to a yoke of slavery?

In what ways might believers today be persuaded to abandon grace as the basis of our relationship with God? What legalistic rules do some say we must keep if we wish to get to heaven?

How does abusing freedom lead to less freedom? How have you experienced this in your own life or witnessed it in the lives of others?

How does neglecting Christian freedom lead us into slavery to false beliefs?

What dangerous opportunities does freedom provide (vv. 13-15)? What was Paul afraid that freedom would give the Galatians an opportunity to do?

## APPLICATION

How might considering the freedom you have in Christ motivate you to serve others in love? What are some practical ways you could do so this week?