

True Gospel : True Freedom (4 of 8)
“Freedom From Duty To Devotion ”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
August 25, 2019

Big Idea: Freedom comes not from rules or the lack of rules but from a personal relationship with Jesus who loves me and gave His life for me.

My old self has been **crucified** with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**. So I live in this earthly body by **trusting** in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **Galatians 2:20 (NLT2) Remember Verse**

“Oh, foolish Galatians! Who has cast an **evil spell** on you? For the meaning of Jesus Christ’s death was **made as clear** to you as if you had seen a **picture** of his death on the cross.” **Galatians 3:1 (NLT2)**

Jesus Came To:

1. Set Us Free From The _____

“Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by obeying the law of Moses? Of course not! You received the Spirit because you **believed** the message you heard about Christ. How foolish can you be? After starting your Christian lives in the Spirit, why are you now **trying** to become perfect by your own **human effort?**” **Galatians 3:2-3 (NLT2)**

“Yet to all who **received Him**, to those who **believed** in His name, He gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.” **John 1:12-13 (NIV)**

“I’ll say it again. If you are trying to **find favor** with God by being circumcised, you must obey **every regulation** in the whole law of Moses. For if you are trying to **make yourselves right** with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have **fallen away** from God’s grace.” **Galatians 5:3-4 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

2. Set Us Free To Follow _____

“Before the way of **faith** in Christ was available to us, we were placed under guard by the law. We were kept in protective custody, so to speak, until the way of **faith** was revealed. Let me put it another way. The law was our **guardian** until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through **faith**. And now that the way of **faith** has come, we no longer need the law as our guardian. For you are all children of God through **faith in Christ Jesus.**” **Galatians 3:23-26 (NLT2)**

"Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to **love the LORD** your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live." **Deuteronomy 30:6 (NASB)**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest for your souls**. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." **Matthew 22:37-40 (NIV)**

Notes: _____

3. Set Us Free To _____ Out Of Love

"But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. For when we place our **faith in Christ Jesus**, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is **important** is faith expressing itself in **love**." **Galatians 5:5-6 (NLT2)**

"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **Galatians 5:13-14 (NLT2)**

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 4:8-11 (NIV)

Notes: _____

➤ Am I serving out of Duty or Devotion?

My next right steps to freedom, I will:

- Share my story of faith [email to: cornerstonepoway1@gmail.com]
- Volunteer to shadow for a day: Kids Teens Tech Worship Admin
- Café Prayer Quilt First Impressions
- Visit a small group (Wednesday Family Night starts this week)
- Accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior

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Family Corner: [Choose one day this week to ask questions to go deeper in faith as a family. Try this over dinner. Keep it to 12 minutes or less.]
Small Groups: [Choose as many questions that honors your group’s time commitment]

Open in Prayer:

Icebreaker: Share a time when you felt burned-out doing a good thing. What were the contributing factors?

➤ What thoughts from this week’s message encouraged you to share your story?

Life Application Bible Commentary – Galatians 3:1

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?^{NRSV} In [1:11](#) Paul had called the believers in Galatia "brothers and sisters" (nrsv); in this verse, he used a much more impersonal *Galatians* to address his converts in the region. He preceded it with a strong adjective reprimanding their behavior—they were *foolish*. The Greek word does not mean that they were mentally deficient; rather, anoetos suggests the behavior of people who are intelligent yet are not using that intelligence to perceive the truth (the same Greek word is used in [Luke 24:25](#); [Romans 1:14](#); [1 Timothy 6:9](#); and [Titus 3:3](#)). The Galatians had shifted from believing in the death and resurrection of Christ for salvation to believing that they must obey the law in order to be fully saved. Such illogical thinking implied that "Christ died for nothing" ([2:21](#) niv). This was inconsistent, contradictory, nonsensical—all summed up in the word "foolish."

What do we learn from the Life Application Commentary?

Why is trying to earn God’s approval illogical compared to what Jesus did?

Jesus Came To:

1. Set Us Free From The Bondage Of Duty

Galatians 3:2-3

Why do we sometimes lean towards self-help books rather than reading God’s Word and listening to His Holy Spirit?

John 1:12-13

What must we do to be born-again?

When was that moment for you?

Galatians 5:3-4

Why does trying to earn God’s favor mess up grace?

What kind of good works have you tried to earn God’s favor?

2. Set Us Free To Follow Out Of Devotion

Galatians 3:23-26

How did the law serve as a guardian for us?

Life Application Bible Commentary - Galatians.

The phrase "in Christ Jesus" strikes a dominant responsive chord for those who are trusting him as Savior and Lord. In this context, the phrase expresses the alternative to being "under the supervision of the law" (3:25 niv). Just as the use of a life instructor in the ancient Greek world assumed a distance between the slave and the child under his care, the alternate arrangement "in Christ Jesus" assumes a personal relationship. Paul made this clear by reminding the Galatians that their relationship with Christ means that they are "children of God."

The actual expression "in Christ" appears eight times in Galatians. Paul used the expression in every one of his letters to churches. He found it just as easy to say, "Christ lives in me" ([2:20](#)). For some, the idea of being "in Christ" contradicts the idea of Christ being "in us." But the terms describe a relationship like no other. They help us understand much without allowing us to claim that we understand everything. The picture of being "in Christ" establishes the reason or basis of our relationship with God. Christ's righteousness, sacrifice, and faithfulness are all regarded by the Father to stand in our place. From the perspective of grace, when God views us who are "in Christ," he sees Christ. The picture of Christ being "in us" identifies the actual experience of relationship.

How does this commentary help you understand what it means to be "in Christ"?

Deuteronomy 30:6

What does God really want from us?

Matthew 11:28-30

What is Jesus' invitation to us?

How is his burden light?

Matthew 22:37-40

How does the great commandment teach us what God's desire is for us?

3. Set Us Free To Serve Others Out Of Love

Galatians 5:5-6

How should our faith be expressed?

Galatians 5:13-15

How does serving one another help change our community?

1 Peter 4:8-11

How does love change us?

What ways can you be hospitable at home? At church? At work?

How can you use the gifts and abilities that God has given you to serve others?

Close in Prayer: Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.