

True Gospel : True Freedom (3 of 8)
“Freedom That Unifies”
Cornerstone Church of Poway
Pastor Ed Turley
August 18, 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**

“And they supported me and did not even demand that my companion **Titus** be circumcised, though he was a Gentile. Even that question came up only because of some so-called Christians there—**false ones**, really—who were secretly brought in. They sneaked in to **spy** on us and **take away the freedom** we have in Christ Jesus. They wanted to enslave us and force us to follow their Jewish regulations. But we **refused** to give in to them for a single moment. We wanted to **preserve the truth of the gospel message for you**. **Galatians 2:3-5 (NLT2)**

To Preserve Unity, We Must:

1. Proclaim Salvation Is Found Only By _____

“Yet we know that a person is made right with God **by faith in Jesus Christ**, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law.”

Galatians 2:16 (NLT2)

“Consider Abraham: ‘He believed God, and it was credited to him as **righteousness**.’ Understand, then, that those who **believe** are children of Abraham.”

Galatians 3:6-7 (NIV)

“Clearly no one is **justified** before God by the law, because, “The righteous will live **by faith**.” **Galatians 3:11 (NIV)**

“But the Scriptures declare that we are all **prisoners of sin**, so we receive **God’s promise of freedom** only by **believing in Jesus Christ**.” **Galatians 3:22 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

2. Refuse To Allow Minors To Become _____

“But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile Christians, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn’t eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was **afraid of criticism** from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. As a **result**, other Jewish Christians **followed Peter’s hypocrisy**, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.”
Galatians 2:11-13 (NLT2)

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on **disputable** matters.”
Romans 14:1 (NIV)

“Therefore let us **stop passing judgment** on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any **stumbling block** or obstacle in your brother's way. As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that **no food is unclean in itself**. But if anyone regards something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer **acting in love**. Do not by your eating **destroy** your brother for whom Christ died. Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 14:13-17 (NIV)

Notes: _____

3. Guard Against _____

“Those **false teachers** are so eager to win your favor, but their **intentions** are not good. They are trying to **shut you off** from me so that you will pay attention only to them. If someone is eager to do good things for you, that’s all right; but let them do it all the time, not just when I’m with you. Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I’m going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until **Christ is fully developed in your lives**.” **Galatians 4:17-19 (NLT2)**

And all who have been **united with Christ in baptism** have **put on the character of Christ**, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all **one in Christ Jesus**. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you. **Galatians 3:27-29 (NLT2)**

Notes: _____

➤ **How can I contribute to unity?**

My next right steps to freedom, I will:

[] Share my story [email to: church@cornerstonepoway.com]

[] Talk to someone during the 30 minute break

[] Visit a small group (Wednesday Family Night starting Aug. 28)

[] 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:

Are you the type of person that goes with the crowd or do your own thing?

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

Galatians 2:1-15

What were false teachers trying to do?

How did Paul respond?

To Preserve Unity, We Must:

1. Proclaim Salvation Is Found Only By Faith In Jesus Christ

Galatians 2:16

How is a person made right with God?

What is faith?

Galatians 3:6-7

What did Abraham do in order to be righteous before God?

Galatians 3:11

Which came first, the law or faith?

Why can't we be justified by the law?

Galatians 3:22

How can we be set free from our prison of sin?

Life Application Bible Commentary - GUARD THE FREEDOM

Who are the "false brothers" and "spies" in the church today? The role is filled by modern Pharisees who introduce rules, policies, and extra steps that they claim are necessary for salvation or full participation in the Christian life. They may be moralists who have their own hierarchy of values (dos and don'ts), but they may also be those who wish to establish a man-made structure. Motivated by a desire for control over others or for holding a superior status, they promote their own agenda, vision, and purposes. They may elevate nonessentials to the

status of salvation theology. They desire to trip people up and catch them in the act of violating a principle of their own choosing.

Grace gives us freedom from the law as a basis for salvation and Christian growth. It also means that no human standards are to enslave us. We must guard our freedom from the law and from those false brothers and sisters who would hinder God's grace.

Life Application Bible Commentary -TAKING A STAND

We live in a pluralistic society with many kinds of expressions of Christian faith. There is a bewildering array of "stands" inviting our support. Christians can just as easily become unresisting compromisers as they can become belligerent defenders of the faith, who see heresy under every rock or behind every word uttered by someone else. Satan's purposes are as well served by "trigger-happy" Christians as by those who deny we are in spiritual warfare. During his visit to Jerusalem, Paul realized the very heart of the gospel was under attack. He understood the ground he wanted to defend and guarded it fiercely. We must do the same. Wise military planners choose their targets and positions carefully, and they commit themselves to clear objectives. The truth of the gospel remains under attack today. But we must ensure that we are guarding the gospel, not our own perspectives, pet peeves, or personal issues. Believers are called to active duty. But we must be wise how we involve ourselves in the battle.

2. Refuse To Allow Minors To Become Majors

Galatians 2:11-13

What was so wrong about Peter's behavior?

What was the result of what Peter did?

Have you ever led someone off the right path by your behavior?

Romans 14:1-17

What are disputable matters that do not involve our salvation?

What are some disputable matters that we pass judgment on today?

Read verse 15 again. What is the warning?

Read verse 17 again. What is the kingdom of God about?

3. Guard Against False Teachers

Galatians 4:16-19

What were the false teachers trying to do?

What was Paul's desire? verse 19

Galatians 3:27-29

What happens spiritually when we identify with Jesus in baptism?

How does Paul describe the unity of believers?

How was this different than his culture's values?

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