

Freedom Week 9 – Gospel Freedom
Small Groups - Bethany Church Long Beach

Intro:

- What part of this week's message was the most challenging or interesting?

Group Questions:

Read Galatians 5:1-6

- Describe the imagery created by the phrase: "The yoke of slavery." If we are free, why do we willingly take up this yoke (through trying to measure our acceptance by following rules or through willful sin)?
- Read verse 2 again, do you think you can lose your salvation? Is this what Paul was referring to? (Romans 8:31-39, John 10:27-30, 1 John 5:13)
- What does it mean to be alienated from Christ? Can you recall a time in your life when you were alienated from Him? What does falling away from grace look like? Can Christians fall from grace? What is the path back to grace?
- Define these words: faith, righteousness, and hope.
- Paul says faith is expressed through love. How is your faith these days? Are there any other way to express faith? Why or why not?

Read Galatians 5:7-12

- Paul compares the Galatians to runners in a race and to a batch of dough (Galatians 5:7-9). How do these comparisons illustrate the nature and perils of the Christian life?
- In Paul's day the cross was offensive (Galatians 5:11) because it declared that circumcision and law keeping were unnecessary for justification. Why is the cross offensive today?
- What must happen in people's minds and hearts before they can become thankful for the cross? How can we help in this process?
- List some principles from 5:7-12 about how error gets into a group of believers. In your own words, explain how to deal with such error?

Read Galatians 5:13-15

- Do you value your freedom from sin and rules? If so, why? How do you show that you value your freedom? Describe at least one way.
- How is your Christian freedom different from the freedom of your sinful nature and also the freedom that the world wants you to claim (5:13)?
- What is Paul's guiding principle for freedom (5:13-14)? Why is this a good guideline?
 - How do some Christians abuse their freedom in Christ?
 - When have you been guilty of backbiting and gossip?
 - Why should we serve the family of God in love?
 - Who is one neighbor you can show a gesture of love this week?
 - Whom can you invite to join you in running a good race?
- **Pray thanking God for all he has taken from you and given you through Jesus**