

# *Freedom*

Galatians 5:1-12

# I. Saved out of Legalism (vs1)

## Galatians 5:1 (NASB)

*It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.*

**“There are only two religions in the world: the religion based on human achievement and the religion based on divine grace...”**



**...Do I magnify my own achievements, or do I humbly bow beneath the grace of God? That is the issue facing every man.”**

**--Dr. John MacArthur--**

# What about Evangelical Protestants?

- **36%** claim to be born-again (100,000,000)
- **9%** have a biblical understanding of what it means to be saved by grace alone through faith alone (20,000,000)
- **80,000,000** living under some kind of legalistic bondage!!!!



# **Galatians: The Christian's Declaration of Independence**

**Chapters 1 & 2:** Paul defends his apostleship

**Chapters 3 & 4:** Paul defends justification through faith alone

**Chapters 5 & 6:** Right doctrine should result in right living

## II. Freedom from What? (vss 2-3)

### Galatians 5:2-3(NASB)

*Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.*



# A. Freedom from the Curse the Law pronounces



...law of sin and death...

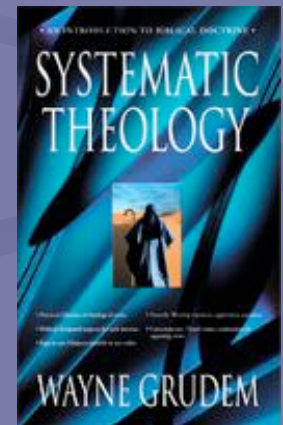
Rom. 8:2

# 1. Freely Justified

- **Justification:** An instantaneous legal act of God in which he (1) thinks of our sins as forgiven and Christ's righteousness as belonging to us, and (2) declares us to be righteous in his sight.



-Grudem, W. A. (1994). *Systematic Theology : An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* --





## 2. Freedom from relying on works of the law (for anything)



“It is deliverance from the curse which the law pronounces upon the sinner who had been striving—unsuccessfully, of course—to achieve his own righteousness”

--Hendriksen-Kistemaker--

## Galatians 3:10 (ESV)

*For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.*



# 1 Corinthians 4:6



*...so that in us you may learn not to exceed what is written....,*

## Matthew 23:24 (NASB)

*“You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!”*”



## B. Freedom as Deliverance





# 1. Deliverance from the power and guilt of sin.

## **Romans 6:18 ESV**

*...and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness*



## 2. Deliverance from an accusing conscience

### Hebrews 10:22 ESV

*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

### 3. Deliverance from the wrath of God

#### **Romans 5:1 ESV**

*Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## 4) Deliverance from the tyranny of Satan

### 2 Timothy 2:26 ESV

*...and they may escape from  
the snare of the devil, after  
being captured by him to do  
his will.*

## **Romans 8:1-2 (NASB)**

***Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.***

***For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.***



### III. Fallen from Grace (vss 4-12)

#### **Galatians 5:4 NASB**

*You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*

## A. Severed from Christ. (vs4)





*“What Paul means here is that it is possible for someone to leave the community of God’s grace. Anyone who rejects the only salvation that Christ has to offer has no business belonging to the church any longer. Those who go back under the yoke of the law-presumably because they never fully trusted Christ alone for their salvation-are outside the realm of grace.”*

**–Philip Ryken, Reformed Expository  
Commentary on Galatians**



## B. Faith Working through Love (vs 5-6)

### Galatians 5:5-6 NASB

*For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.*

## **Colossians 1:10-11a (NASB)**

**...so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might...**

**“The whole law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’ (Gal. 5:14). A person does not, for instance, steal from or lie to someone he truly loves. He certainly does not kill someone he loves. The person who lives by faith works under the inner compulsion of love and does not need the outer compulsion of law.”**

**--John MacArthur, New Testament Commentary,  
Galatians**