

FREEDOM WITH A PURPOSE

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

Overview

- Pastor stated that God's idea of freedom and our idea of freedom don't necessarily match. Discuss the differences in how God sees our freedom and how we might view freedom.
- Paul continues to "correct" the people of Galatia. He is now confronting those who claim to have license to live as they please because they say they have received the Grace of God. How did these people interpret the word freedom and what was the flaw in their thinking?
- Pastor said that God's people who have been freed from bondage of sin and have been transferred into the kingdom of light should not live by their own vision but rather should live my what?
- What is the acronym Pastor shared that the word BIBLE could stand for?
- When we live by these words, what are we living by?
- What can we learn from **Prov. 29:18**?
- What does Solomon mean by the last part of **verse 18**, "Blessed is he who keeps the law?"

Living in Freedom means DOING AWAY WITH LEGALISM AND LICENSE

Gal. 5:13-15

- Pastor reminded us of some important definitions to help us with these verses.
- What does legalism mean?
- What does license mean?
- What does Paul mean when he uses the word flesh?
- What has Jesus set us free from?
 - **Romans 5:9, 8:1**
 - **Romans 6:22; 1 Corinthians. 10:13**
 - **Colossians 1:13; 1 John 4:4**
 - **1 Cor. 10:29-31**
- What has Jesus set us free for?
 - **Romans 6:19-25, Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21**
 - **1 Corinthians 12:25; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11**
 - **2 Corinthians 5:18-2; Romans 8:29**
- What misunderstanding is Paul cleaning up in **verses 13-15**?

In Freedom means CONTROLLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Gal. 5:16-21

- What do we learn about the “Royal Law” in *James 2:8, Leviticus 19:18 and John 3:16* along with *Gal. 5:14*?
- What does loving our neighbors as our self mean?
- What is the real battle in *verses 16-18*?
- How does a Christian avoid fulfilling the lust of the flesh? (*v.16*)
- In *verses 19-21* Paul gives 15 concrete examples of the deeds of the flesh that lead to life styles steeped in sin.
- What is Paul telling the readers about this life of sin and their salvation?
- What will be true of those who practice the works of the flesh (*v.21*)? Jesus used another way to explain this situation in *John 8:31*.
- What was Jesus telling us?

Living in freedom means DISPLAYING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Gal. 5:22-25

- What does the fruit of the Spirit look like (*verse22-23*)?
- How is this different than the list in *verses 19-21*?
- Which is more appealing?
- Which verses sound better for a life with Christ, *verses 19-21 or verse 22*?
- Why does Paul say there is “no such law” against these in *verse 23*?

APPLICATION

- Does the gospel of freedom mean freedom to sin? Explain
- What fleshly desires are you following which are leading to works of the flesh?
- Is there one that you see yourself losing the battle?
 - Improper sexual desire or actions?
 - Controlling your temper?
 - Arguing with your spouse or family members?
 - Raising your voice and yelling are your children
 - Other?
- What do you have to do to release yourself from any of the deeds of the flesh?
- Are you ready to surrender these deeds of the flesh to God?
- How can you use your brothers and sisters of VCF to help you fight against our common enemy of sin?