

Freedom Series Hold On To Freedom

Reading: [1 Corinthians 13:1-3](#)

Introduction

- It's difficult to hold onto things that are really valuable.
 - There has to be a safe place for them.
 - We may have to keep them under lock and key
 - The most valuable things cannot be insured either.
- I'm referring to things like love and family and freedom

- [Galatians 5:1](#) Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.
- That says, "hold on to liberty" "hold on to freedom."
 - How do we do that?
 - I know our country would say a lot of things like a good military
 - This is talking about a different freedom, freedom found in Christ
- How do we preserve that freedom? How do we keep it?

1. Don't go back to a yoke of bondage

[Galatians 5:1](#) ...do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

- The context tells us that this is referring to tradition or the old law
- How would that apply to us? We don't live under the law?
- Some were wanting to continue certain parts of the law. Listen:

[Galatians 5:2-4](#) Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt* to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

- What does that mean?
 - When we keep striving to keep rules, and we break them, we sin
 - If we have to keep one of them, we have to keep all of them
 - We can't do it. We fail. We sin. We are bound by it.
- What if, we stop keeping lists of requirements and trust Christ?
 - Christ has set us free, WE didn't do it. He did.
 - Let's back up

[Galatians 4:31](#) So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

- This refers to sons of Sarah and Hagar

[Gal. 4:25-26](#) for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children—but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

- We are no longer under a law of bondage, a yoke of bondage
- We are under grace. We are free from law.
- Do you understand what this means? We are FREE!

2. Spirit of Freedom

[Romans 8:1-2](#) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

- That law brought death, because we failed to keep it.
 - We failed to keep the 3 simple rules given to Adam and Eve
 - We failed to keep the 10 commandments given to Moses
 - We fail to keep every law, which failure brings sin and death
- In Christ, we're free from law and from the condemnation it brings.
 - So, stop living according to worldly rules, we are free from them
 - We live by the law of the spirit of Life
 - What does THAT mean?

[Romans 8:3-4](#) For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh **but according to the Spirit**.

- Jesus bore it all, with HIM we have that freedom, ONLY with Him.

3. Freedom to Live By Faith

[Galatians 5:6](#) For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

- Why doesn't any law matter? "faith working through love"
 - Not a new theme:

[1 Corinthians 13:3](#) And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

- The Transfer from the law of bondage, is faith through love

[Galatians 5:14-15](#) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

- This freedom is based on faith through love.
- Faith in God creates a Love for God
- Love for God creates a love for others.
- Freedom makes the rules obsolete. It's not about rules, it's about love
 - You don't bite and devour each other when you love each other
 - You don't steal from each other when you love each other
 - You don't hurt one another when you love each other
 - You do kind things for each other, help one another, encourage.
 - You listen to what God says and do it because you know He loves you and because you love Him back.
 - This kind of freedom makes a difference for good and for God and for everyone around us.