

✓ **Freedom**
And
Love

2-18-18

Galatians 5:1 (ESV)

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Issue: LAW + GRACE - A.W. of Holy Spirit.

Concerning our daily Christian walk, this may be one of the most important verses in the Bible.

Through salvation in Jesus Christ we are FREE! The hindrance of freedom is being under the Law. One of the commandments of OT Law was that all males had to be circumcised. Paul identifies keeping the Law with the commandment to be circumcised.

Circumcision equals keeping the rules to be accepted by God. Therefore I am going to insert “keeping the rules” for “circumcision” in the following verses to help understand the intent.

Galatians 5:2 (ESV)

Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept “keeping the rules”, **CHRIST WILL BE OF NO ADVANTAGE TO YOU!**

When you base your acceptance on “keeping the rules” you must “keep” all the rules!

Galatians 5:3 (ESV)

I testify again to every man who accepts “keeping the rules” that he is obligated to keep **the whole law.**

Choosing the rules over faith has severe consequences! You are separated from Christ and fall away from Grace, the power and favor of God!

Galatians 5:4 (ESV)

YOU ARE SEVERED FROM CHRIST, you who would be justified by the law; **YOU HAVE FALLEN AWAY FROM GRACE** (favor and power).

Without rules how are we to live? How are we to measure our acceptance by God? We must have some responsibility!

Galatians 5:6 (ESV)

For in Christ Jesus neither “**keeping the rules**” nor “**not keeping the rules**” counts for anything, **but only faith** (hearing God and doing what He says) **working through love**.

Faith (hearing God and doing what HE says) and love (serving others) become the Christian’s motivation and empowerment. It is all about the transformed heart!

Galatians 5:13 (ESV)

For **you were called to freedom**, brothers. Only **do not use your freedom** as an opportunity for the flesh (selfish impulses and motivation), but **through love serve one another**.

Christians are not to follow selfish impulses, but be motivated by sacrificial love. Through love the whole Law is fulfilled!

Galatians 5:14 (ESV)

For **the whole law is fulfilled** in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus established love is a fundamental teaching!

Matthew 22:37–38 (ESV)

³⁷ JESUS said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and **first** commandment.”

Loving God is the first priority. The second priority of all life is to self sacrificially love others!

Matthew 22:39–40 (ESV)

³⁹ And a **second** is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ **On these two commandments “HANG” all the Law and the Prophets.**”

Everything “HANGS” on love! By showing love TO GOD AND PEOPLE “ALL THE LAW” IS FULFILLED!

Through love Christians move from:

- **Religion to Relationship**
- **Following Rules to Inward motivation**
- **Constraint to Transformation**
- **Law to Holy Spirit**

Jesus obeyed the Law because that was who HE was. He couldn't help it.

Sincere Believers will do what God tells them, because that is who they are. They can't help it.

Relationship through love transform not rules!

From a relationship with Jesus Christ comes:

#1 Freedom from the Law!

#2 The ability to Love self sacrificially!

For this to be true for mankind God has to transform us to make us righteous. This action requires an unbelievable sacrifice of love on God's part. This divine sacrifice from God and by Jesus Christ leaves us a picture of pure divine love and is an example to the whole world!

2Cor.5:21 (NIV)

God made HIM who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in HIM we might become the righteousness of God.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.