

Freed From Slavery

Grace and Law (Part 1)

November 29, 2020

Key Verse

Galatians 5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Main Point

Because Christ has set me free, I must not submit to the slavery of self-righteousness (relying on my performance). (OR) In Christ, I must choose to be defined NOT by what I do BUT by what JESUS did.

■ The Attraction of Law is Boasting

Galatians 6:12–13

▣ Striving for Identity

The Greek word for “boast” is described to mean, “to express an unusually high degree of confidence in someone or something being **exceptionally noteworthy**¹”.

▣ Striving for Accolades

Q: What areas of good performance give you identity or accolades? Your devotionals? Your hospitality? Your parenting? Your grades? Your work assignments? How well you play ball? The flavor and texture of your apple pie? Your quick wit? Your capacity to make someone smile? How you spend your Sunday (or how you don’t spend your Sunday)? How you manage your money? Your wardrobe and accessories? The cleanliness of your house? Your friends and acquaintances? How your children perform in any of these areas?

It is difficult to see these things in ourselves. Ask a good friend, ask your spouse, ask your parent, ask your kids – What do I boast about? When do I put my hope in what I do?

■ The Consequence of Law is Slavery

Galatians 5:2–3; Galatians 4:8–10; Ga 3:10–11a

Madonna *My drive in life comes from a fear of being mediocre. That is always pushing me. I push past one spell of it and discover myself to be a pretty special human being, but then I feel like I am still mediocre and uninteresting unless I do something else. Because even though I have become somebody, I still have to prove that I am somebody. My struggle has never ended, and I guess it never will. (Vogue interview as quoted by Tim Keller in The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness, p22)*

As a means of application, consider this question:

Q: In those areas where you are aware of your performance, how does it feel when you fail? (See list above)

Again, it is difficult to see these things in ourselves. Ask a good friend, ask your spouse, ask your parent, ask your kids – When do my failures or the failures of others bring me down? When do I put my hope in what I do?

¹ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). [Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains](#) (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 430). New York: United Bible Societies.

■ Freedom from Law through the Gospel

▣ Redeemed in Christ

Galatians 2:19–21 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.

Galatians 3:13–14

▣ Identity in Christ

Galatians 4:4-5, 7

▣ Life in Christ

Galatians 5:1; 3:2-6; 5:5

The gospel application that Paul is commanding is that we stand firm and not submit to a yoke of slavery. This is a decision we must make, moment-by-moment, day-by-day. When we think that we have a **better or worse** standing with God because of what we do, we need to take captive those thoughts and submit them to Jesus.

What is one situation in your life where you are tempted to be defined by your performance? Learn to declare:

When I _____,

I am NOT defined by how I _____,

but by Jesus' perfect performance.