

Freed To Serve

Grace and Law (Part 2)

December 6, 2020

Key Verse

Galatians 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Main Point

Christ has set me free from serving myself in order to serve others.

■ Called to Freedom

Steve Brown So, on the basis of what the Bible teaches, let me give you a radical statement: You are really and truly and completely free...

Does being free mean that, if I don't do what God says, he will still love me? Yes, that is exactly what it means. You might get hurt and regret what you've done, but you can do it, and He won't stop loving you. You won't lose your salvation, and you won't get kicked out of the kingdom.

Does being free mean that God is pleased with whatever I do, no matter what it is? Of course not... God feels pleased when we do what he asks of us; but, because of the imputed righteousness of Christ, he won't be angry with you nor will he ever condemn you.

Does being free mean that when Christians are really upset with me, God isn't? Yes.

Does being free mean that his love and grace are without condition? Yes, that is exactly what it means.

What if I do something bad? Would God still bless me and answer my prayers? Yes, He will...

([A Scandalous Freedom](#), p. 12, 13-14)

Questions:

- Would you describe yourself as FREE to a close friend?
- Can you identify one area where you experience more freedom now than in the past?
- Can you identify one area in which to ask God's help to grow in your practice of freedom?

■ Choices (5:13-14)

Galatians 5:13-14

▣ Two Choices

Galatians 5:13

σάρξ [*sarx* /*sarx*/] the flesh, denotes mere human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God. (Strong, J. (1995). [Enhanced Strong's Lexicon](#).)

douleuo (δουλεύω, 1398), "to serve as a slave, to be a slave, to be in bondage," is frequently used without any association of slavery¹

1 Corinthians 9:19

¹ Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). [Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words](#) (Vol. 2, p. 73). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.

▣ The Great Commandment

Matthew 22:37–40; John 13:34; Galatians 6:2

We couldn't obey the law before, what is different now?

1. We are called to love like Christ but we are not defined by how well we love. We talked about that last week. It is true every day of the Christian life.
2. We are gifted the Holy Spirit. Between the Spirit of God, the Word of God, and (in the context of this letter) the People of God, God has given us the resources we need to live the obedient life – not perfectly, but fruitfully.

■ How to Make the Good Choice (5:15-18)

Galatians 5:15–18; Galatians 3:5–6; Romans 10:17

John Piper The ultimate purpose of this book is that God be *prized* above all things. I could also say that the ultimate purpose is the *praise* of the glory of God's grace. The reason both are aims, and both are ultimate, is that *prizing* is the authentication of *praising*. You can't praise what you don't prize. Or, to put it another way, **God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.**

On the other side of the coin, the aim of this book is to emancipate human hearts from servitude to the fleeting pleasures of sin. Sin is what you do when your heart is not satisfied with God. No one sins out of duty. We sin because it holds out some promise of happiness. That promise enslaves us until we believe that God is more to be desired than life itself (Ps 63:3). Which means that **the power of sin's promise is broken by the power of God's.** All that God promises to be for us in Jesus stands over against what sin promises to be for us without him. This great prospect of the glory of God is what I call *future grace*. Being satisfied with that is what I call *faith*. And therefore the life I write about in this book is called *Living by Faith in Future Grace*.²

■ Application

1. Identify **someone** God is calling you to serve
2. Identify **Scripture** to help you fight the fight of faith
3. **Pray!** Ask God's Spirit to come alongside to help you serve well and to make your service fruitful.
4. **Serve!**
5. **Celebrate** the successes, no matter how small.

I believe Jesus is saying something like this through the Apostle Paul: *Come! I am calling you to work with Me! Come give yourself fully to my Father's work – it's a work of love. But don't worry about failing – you'll never be defined by how well you work. I will always love you and never be angry with you. I choose you for this purpose, and my Spirit is your Helper. You are a jar of clay in which I want to be the treasure. Come now, and let's show the world together what Love looks like.*

² Piper, John (1995) Future Grace. (pp.9-10) Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books