

Group/Individual Study

Series: "Be Free" - Walk in Freedom

Passages: Galatians 5:1-14

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 3/19

1. Read Galatians 5:1-14. What stands out to you? Why?
2. Take a look at verse 2. In their context, what was the big deal about whether or not they allowed themselves to be circumcised? How would doing so undermine the faith Paul have preached to them?
3. Take a look at verse 6. The first four chapters of Galatians have been about how grace, not our own religious efforts, is the basis of God's unconditional love for us. Yet in verse 6 he talks about "faith expressing itself in love." How is faith that expresses itself through love, different from religious activities to earn God's favor? Can you give an example from your own life?
4. Reread verse 12. Paul speaks of "the offense of the cross." What do you think Paul means? How can being justified only by what Jesus did on the cross offend our flesh and our pride? Can you give an example?
5. Read verses 13-14 again.
 - a. What could it look like when we use the freedom grace gives us to "indulge the flesh"? Have you ever felt convicted of this?
 - b. Gary has contended for this whole series that the grace of God is a much more powerful "fuel" for living and righteous living, than is trying to earn God's love. It's counterintuitive, but it's true. Why do you think this is so?
 - c. How does the grace of God inspire you to humbly love others? How does the grace of God tend to redirect you from sins that have held you, towards "faith expressing itself in love"?