

Galatians Small Group



Session 4- Flesh versus the Spirit

- Icebreaker -

- **How would you define freedom, when in your life have you most felt free?**
 - *LEADERS NOTE:* A fun and silly question but you may be surprised at how deep people may take this.
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READ: 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.

- The point Paul is making does not have so much to do with circumcision as it does with obeying the old laws.
 - **Why would Paul say that if you follow one law, in this case circumcision, then you should obey them all? Why is the law unable to save us?**
 - *LEADERS NOTE:* Paul is telling the Galatians if you are looking to circumcision as a way to be compliant with the law in order to receive Salvation then you should be trying to obey all the laws. The truth is that the law will never save us because we are all inherently sinful and unable to obey the law the way God intended. Jesus makes it clear that we all fall short of God's standard in his Sermon the Mount. (Matt. 5-7)
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READ: 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

- **The Galatians allowed themselves to be enslaved to legalism. What limits your freedom?**

READ: 7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? **8** This persuasion does not *come* from Him who calls you. **9** A little leaven leavens the whole lump

- **Who/What is a person or thing in your life that is hindering you from obeying the truth?**

- **LEADERS NOTE:** It is easy to think of ourselves as being a light to others. This gives us reason to be around the lost people of the world. But at some point we must be around other light or we run the danger of letting our light be snuffed out by the world. Are the people we are spending time with or the way we present ourselves showing our “light” or are we allowing our light to be “extinguished” by them.

READ: 13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **14** For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

- **Paul turns this idea of freedom on its head. He instructs us to use our freedom to serve others. How can you love your neighbor this week? What is a specific way that you can use your freedom to serve someone else this week?**