

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

“Set Free”

Galatians 5:1-15

Week of September 4, 2016

**Central Truth:** Beware not to lose or abuse gospel freedom.

1. When you first moved away from home, what did “freedom” mean to you? From what were you free? What were you free to do?
2. Two enemies of Christian freedom granted to believers by the gospel of grace are **legalism** (a way of living that obeys certain rules in the belief that keeping these requirements will earn some form of blessing from God—e.g., eternal life, forgiveness, worldly wealth, etc.) and **license** (living however you want in light of God’s unconditional acceptance of you through Christ).
  - a. What are some ways that Christians and the church today struggle with legalism? What do you think are some common works that people try to accomplish to gain God’s blessings?
  - b. Discuss some ways that today’s Christians struggle with abusing freedom in Christ. What do you think are some common abuses of the freedom we have in Christ?
3. Why not take advantage of gospel freedom by using it as a license to sin? Why live godly lives if obeying or disobeying God’s commands has no effect on your salvation or your standing before God?
4. Augustine is historically attributed to have said, “*In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.*” Read the quote below and answer the following questions.

*If Christians are not careful, then “non-essential” thoughts and practices can become traditions. And, if we raise our traditions to the place of non-negotiables, we essentially create a system of legalism—the opposite of gospel freedom. Beware of it!*

- a. How does this quote speak to you?
  - b. What are examples of “non-essentials” that are often treated as “non-negotiables” that lead to legalism?
5. What one insight from the teaching or today’s discussion seems most personally significant to you right now?