

Series: “The Gospel of Freedom and the Things That Hinder”

Message: “Truly Free?” Galatians 5:1,7-13

Central Thought: *How we define freedom is tied to whether we are truly free and whose freedom we truly have.*

- 1) What Gospel freedom is NOT.
 - Lawlessness – freedom to do **whatever** I want.
 - Independence – disconnection from **others**.
 - Autonomy – I am in **charge** of my own life.
 - Single-vectored – freedom **from** AND freedom **to**. Colossians 1:13

- 2) The Gospel of Jesus offers us freedom **FROM**...
 - The power of sin to **control** us. Romans 6:19
 - Guilt and punishment for our sins. Romans 8:1
 - Living by the **rules**. Galatians 5:2-6
 - The need to hide our true sinful selves. Genesis 3:8
 - The need for the **approval** of others. Romans 8:33
 - The enemy’s **lies**. John 8:44
 - The shame of past **failures**. Psalm 25:2

- 3) The Gospel of Jesus offers us freedom **TO**...
 - Live with the assurance that we are completely **forgiven** by God. Psalm 103:10
 - Live completely accepted and **approved** of by God. Romans 8:34
 - Be wholly new people undefined by **past** failures. 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - Be who God says we are. Isaiah 43:1
 - Belong to God alone as His possession – **slaves** of a loving and gracious Master. Romans 1:1

- 4) What do we do about this?
 - **Admit** that we are not free.
 - **Identify** the hindrances to freedom that we have learned to live with.
 - FROM – **Renounce** the lies that come from an “abnormal normal”.
 - TO – **Announce** the truth of God that opposes the lies and revalues us.
 - **Redefine** ourselves in terms of truth with a new resolve. 2 Corinthians 10:5

For LIFE Groups and personal reflection

- 1) What is your personal definition of freedom? Does it align with the Gospel definition?
- 2) Why is it important to understand that we are freed both FROM and TO?
- 3) Why is it so tempting to measure our lives by how well we do, when Jesus saved us while we were sinners?
- 4) Why are comparisons to one another so evil and hurtful?
- 5) In what ways can praise be just as damaging as criticism?
- 6) Why are we so easily impacted by the opinions of others?

Word bank: admit, announce, approval, approved, charge, control, failures, forgiven, identify, lies, others, past, redefine, renounce, rules, slaves, whatever