



HIGHLANDS FELLOWSHIP

Summer at Highlands • Freedom • Galatians 2:19-20; 3:21-23; 5:1 •

06/30/2019

Main Point

Spiritual freedom can only come through Jesus Christ, and we have a role in acquiring this freedom.

Opening Doors

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

How would you explain why Americans celebrate the Fourth of July to someone from another country?

In what sense are Americans free? In what sense would you say many Americans are still in bondage?

Would you say you are enjoying true freedom in Christ the way He intends for you to? Why or why not?

Americans celebrate the Fourth of July in commemoration of the Declaration of Independence of the United States on July 4, 1776. Though this day was a declaration of freedom from the British monarch, many Americans still do not experience full freedom due to their bondage to sin. As Christians, we have been granted spiritual freedom in Jesus Christ. Still, in a sense, many of us do not functionally operate out of that freedom, pridefully choosing sin and a focus on non-essential matters, instead.

Digging In

Discuss the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE SOMEONE READ GALATIANS 5:1.

If Christ has set us free, then why would Paul tell us to stand firm and not be burdened by a yoke of slavery?

In this week's message, we discovered three kinds of freedom—external, eternal, and internal. How do you describe the differences in those three types of freedom? Which kind do we celebrate on days like the Fourth of July? Which kind was Paul talking about in Galatians 5:1?

We are right to be grateful for the freedoms this country affords, but we must understand that there is still a war being waged. Paul challenged Christians to stand firm in their freedom, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Christ had set them free from spiritual slavery. We also must not exchange the freedom we have in Christ for slavery to religious legalism (yoke of slavery). Jesus Himself is the truth that sets people free. The truth of His person and work is what gives a believer freedom from sin and freedom to connect with God.

ASK SOMEONE TO READ GALATIANS 3:21-23.

The purpose of the law was to show our desperate need for God (v. 19). The law sets the standard for righteousness and highlights our sinfulness and need of a Savior.

What does God’s intervention through Christ reveal about His feelings for us?

Our inability to fulfill the law proves we need a mediator between us and God, which is what Jesus’ death on the cross was all about. By embracing faith as the basis for our relationship with God, we move from attempting to please Him and earn His love to being adopted children blanketed in Christ’s righteousness. Paul wrote that we are “sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (v. 26). By faith, we become Christians saved by God’s grace, and by faith we live as Christians, furthering His kingdom and spreading the gospel.

ASK SOMEONE TO READ GALATIANS 2:19-20.

What is the relationship between being “crucified with Christ” and having freedom in Christ?

What evidence of this have you seen in your life?

When Jesus gave up His life for us on the cross, our sins died with Him, and God considers that sacrifice sufficient penalty (Col. 2:13-15). As a result, we’re united with Christ in His death, and all that is required of us is faith in Him. When we live by faith, we realize that, like Paul said, Christ lives in us and our sinful natures are defeated. Our motivation for obedience comes when we pursue Him and allow Him to work through us.

Taking It Home

Identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to your life.

In the sermon this week we were challenged to surrender to the Lord by giving Him our passions, problems, and plans. What is one way you need to do that?

Jesus' plan for internal freedom is to deny yourself (Rom. 6:12-13), follow Him (1 Cor. 11:1), stand firm (Gal. 5:1), and focus on God's best (Gal. 5:22-23). Based on these instructions, how would you rate the internal freedom you're currently experiencing on a scale of 1 to 10? Explain.

How can this group help you walk in the freedom of Christ?