

FREEDOM IS FOUND IN BECOMING SERVANTS OF JESUS

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: LIVING IN FREEDOM
SERIES: GALATIANS

BIG TRUTH: FREEDOM IS FOUND IN BECOMING SERVANTS OF JESUS

Romans 6:22; 8:15; 1 Peter 2:16; 1 Corinthians 9:18-19; 1 Samuel 12:14; Joshua 24:24

BIBLE VERSE: GALATIANS 1:10

"For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ."

BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is the only way we can have freedom.
- True freedom means giving our lives to Jesus.
- Servants of Christ live for Jesus alone.

BIBLE PASSAGE: GALATIANS 1:1-10

UNITE: LIVING IN FREEDOM

The Unite year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God- seen throughout the Old Testament as "God's People" and in the New Testament and today as the church (Exodus 6:7; Colossians 1:18). We are set free from our sin to walk in freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and use our influence to call others to do the same.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- True freedom is only found in being a servant of Jesus
- We are set free not to do whatever we want, but to live for Christ



Every student should feel...

- Grateful for Christ who sets us free
- Convicted of the ways that they are ruled by the desires of their flesh
- Responsible to use their influence to make much of God alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the book of Galatians each week
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Deny the desires of their flesh to walk in step with the Spirit



Every student should want...

- See the ways that they are tempted to pursue self-salvation, and repent of these
- Live for the approval of God, not others
- Help others move out of slavery to sin toward freedom in Christ

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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FREEDOM IS FOUND IN BECOMING
SERVANTS OF JESUS**BIBLE VERSE: GALATIANS 1:10**

“For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

Jesus followers are free from seeking the approval of man.

“For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man?”

- Prior to salvation, a person is enslaved to his or her sin nature. This sin nature leads a person to seek approval from the world and others around them. After salvation, Jesus followers are freed from this need and no longer have to live this way.
- Because they live to please God, they are no longer seeking the approval of others. Living for Jesus means seeking to be like God and not man. This means that we live for God and to obey His commands given to us in His Word. This is true freedom because we are living the way we were created and designed to live.

Our flesh nature leads us to try to please ourselves and others instead of God.

“Or am I trying to please man?”

- Because our flesh nature and redeemed nature are at odds with one another, we can fall back into the habit of trying to please ourselves or please others. Our flesh nature, or sin nature will lead us to live for the things of the world or for the approval of others.
- Instead, we are called to live for God and to seek to be His servant. Our freedom allows us to live in obedience to His Word and to serve Him. We can obey His Word and seek His approval alone.

Jesus followers find freedom in being Jesus’ servants.

“If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

- Believers cannot serve the world and Christ. We must choose to walk in the Spirit or to be led by our fleshly desires. We cannot do both. We are either living for the things of the world, following our flesh or we are living for Christ, following God’s Word.
- Jesus followers will find true freedom when they submit their lives to being His servants. To be His servant means to live for Him and to serve others in His name.

FREEDOM IS FOUND IN BECOMING
SERVANTS OF JESUS**BIG IDEA #1: JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN HAVE FREEDOM.¹****[THIS]**

Paul begins his letter to the believers in Galatia by reminding them of the salvation all believers have received through Jesus Christ. In 1:1-3, he writes of the sacrifice of Jesus, who gave His life to deliver people from the evil of this world. This deliverance is a freedom from the sin nature that enslaves every person. It is only through Jesus that a person can have freedom. In our culture today, freedom is defined as the ability and right to think however you want, to do whatever you want, and to be whatever you feel. It is defined as a fluid concept that changes with the individual person's emotions, thoughts, ideas, or desires. This slippery slope leads to people being in captivity to an ever-changing ideal rather than the true freedom that Christ gives to those who submit to His Lordship.

[THEREFORE]

What lies have you believed about freedom and the view the world takes towards freedom?

The western worldview of freedom leads to slavery. It leads to a slavery to self and the ever-changing culture. A lie we can be tempted to believe is that we can live for both the world and God, but we cannot. Luke 16:13 teaches us that a believer cannot serve two masters, meaning that we cannot serve the world and God.

[THIS]

Biblical freedom is found through saving faith in Jesus Christ. When we have a true faith in Jesus, we are truly free. When we believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are set free from the worldview that belongs to this sinful and broken world. We are free to serve God by pursuing Christlikeness. We find our true purpose in life, and this brings us freedom from the rat race that is trying to be whatever our culture dictates. Freedom is found in being who God created us to be and in fulfilling our God-given purpose. Biblical freedom is a freedom from our sin nature and the fleshly desires that are connected to it. Day by day as we live for Jesus, we can walk less and less in our flesh and more and more led by the Holy Spirit. We grow in our faith and grow in our Christlikeness. We bear fruit that is pleasing to God, and we no longer care if we are pleasing to man.

[THEREFORE]

Read Galatians 1:6-7. How is our faith connected to the freedom we have in Christ?

Paul writes of the freedom that the gospel brings to those who believe in Galatians 1:6-7. This freedom is possible because of the faith that is connected to believing in Jesus as our Savior. As we believe, we walk in the freedom He gives.

How does the world's distortion of freedom tempt you to fall back into slavery?

In Galatians 1:7, Paul writes of those who distort the gospel and tempt people to believe something that is false. Our culture presents an idea of freedom that is tempting. It seems better than following God's commands and obeying Him because it seems to allow you to do as you please, putting you in charge as lord over your own life. The culture's idea of freedom is actually slavery to yourself and the ideas of others. These ideas will change as they always do and then you will have to morph and change with them. This is a cycle that will only lead to death.

1. Galatians 1:6-7: Jesus is the only true way to have freedom from our sin nature. There is no other way.

FREEDOM IS FOUND IN BECOMING
SERVANTS OF JESUS**BIG IDEA #2: TRUE FREEDOM MEANS GIVING OUR LIVES TO JESUS.²****[THIS]**

In Galatians 1:4, Paul writes of the will of God the Father in sending Jesus to deliver God's chosen people from their sin. Paul's letter to the churches at Galatia serves as a reminder to all believers of the price that was paid for their redemption. In verse 4, Paul reminds them that it is Jesus who gave Himself up for mankind. Romans 5:8 reminds us that it is while we were still sinners that Jesus died for us. It is not when we were righteous that Jesus died on the cross. All believers are bought with a price, and that price is the life of Jesus. We are purchased to be a part of God's family and chosen to belong to Him. We do not belong to ourselves. We are redeemed out of our sinfulness and into the family of God. We are not redeemed to continue living for ourselves. Instead, we are set free to live as God's chosen ones.

[THEREFORE]

How does it practically change our daily life when we live like we belong to God and not to the world?

Ephesians 1:4-5 and 1 Peter 2:9 teach us that God's people are a chosen race and are to live as such. This means that we are to actively put aside our flesh and to seek to be led by the Holy Spirit who lives inside of us. We can do this by submitting to His leading and guidance daily and by abiding in Jesus.

[THIS]

God chooses His people and sets them free for His glory. All that He does is for His glory. He is due all glory as Paul writes in Galatians 1:5. God does not set us free to do whatever we want, or to be slaves to our flesh nature. If we were to do whatever we want, we would follow our flesh and the ways of the world. We would be led by the ruler of this world and not by God. God sets us free to be servants of Jesus. We are to submit our lives to Him and seek to obey His commands. We are to pursue Christlikeness, and in doing this we seek to become servants as He is a servant. When we pursue servanthood, we will find true freedom. We are free from the pursuit of our fleshly desires that enslave us. We are free from the guilt and shame that follow when we act on those desires. Living as servants of Jesus offers us true freedom because we are living as we are created to be. We are fulfilling our God-created purpose.

[THEREFORE]

How does the world's negative view of servanthood impact your own pursuit of being Jesus' servant?

Philippians 2:5-8 and 1 Corinthians 10:24 teach us the value of becoming servants of Jesus. Jesus was Himself a servant and came to serve others. We reject the world's view of servanthood, which pridefully seeks to be served, and follow Jesus' example. This is the better way.

Read 1 Corinthians 7:21-31. What does it look like for you to become a servant of Jesus each day?

In these verses, Paul examines the call of each believer to live in the freedom Christ purchases for them by becoming His servants. We can live freely by submitting ourselves to His commands and walking as servants just as He was and is a servant. We do this by dying to our flesh daily and taking up our cross to live sacrificial lives for Jesus.

2. Galatians 1:1-2: Paul was a servant of Jesus and lived as one captive to Jesus, his Savior.

FREEDOM IS FOUND IN BECOMING
SERVANTS OF JESUS**BIG IDEA #3: SERVANTS OF CHRIST LIVE FOR JESUS ALONE.³****[THIS]**

Because Jesus' followers are bought with a price, we are not our own. We are purchased to live for God by becoming like Jesus. Jesus lived as a servant during His earthly ministry. He came to the earth and served others. He did not seek to be served. As we follow in His example, we will serve one another and others. We put others before ourselves and seek the glory of God and the good of our neighbor above our own desires. We do this by living for the glory of Jesus and not our own glory. We do this by fulfilling the created purpose that God has given each of His people. When we serve one another, we are fulfilling this purpose. Luke 17:7-10 is a parable of servants and their master. They served the master because it was their duty to do so. It is the purpose of every Jesus' follower to live for Jesus and to serve Him by serving others. We live our lives as He lived, pouring ourselves out for the glory of God and the good of others. This is what Jesus did and this is what we are called to do.

[THEREFORE]

How does servanthood lead us to become more and more like Jesus?

In Philippians 2:6-8, Paul writes of Jesus' willingness to humble himself and become like man, even to the point of death. This humility that Christ put on was so that He could serve mankind by paying the sin debt that man owed. When we become servants, we are following in Christ's footsteps and becoming more and more like Jesus.

[THIS]

Because we are called to be servants of Jesus, Jesus is the only one we are to live for. We do not have to concern ourselves with living for man or winning the approval of mankind. Galatians 1:10 helps us understand that no believer has to seek the approval of the world or any person. Instead, we are to live for Jesus alone. Jesus is the one person we seek to please. Our lives should be lived in a way that honors Him and seeks to bring Him glory. Living for Jesus alone requires that we put aside earthly things. We cannot seek the things of the world and also live for Jesus. We cannot fulfill our fleshly desires while trying to pursue Jesus. Since Jesus has set us free to live for Him, we do not have to worry about the opinions of anyone else. We can concern ourselves only with Jesus and Jesus alone.

[THEREFORE]

What are some obstacles that keep you from living for Jesus alone?

James 4:4 and 1 John 2:15-17 remind us the snare that earthly things can be to us. When we love the world and the things of the world, we fall into a trap of living for the world. We can fail to live for Jesus alone when this happens. We live for material things that will fade away and aren't eternal.

In what ways are you tempted to seek the approval of man?

Sometimes, our pride leads us to crave affirmation or makes us afraid to disappoint others. Other times, we live short-sighted lives that value the opinions of our friends today over what God thinks of us. Colossians 3:2 reminds us that we should set our minds on things above, not on things on earth. We can be tempted to focus on the things of earth, even though Jesus reminds us in Matthew 24:35 that the earth is passing away.

3. Galatians 1:10: Jesus' servants live for His approval and only His approval.