



Stand in Freedom Galatians 5:1-6

I. THE DEMAND: Stand Firm in Freedom (Vs.1)

Two facts: Christ has set us free – the past moment when we were saved, and now – our sanctification/deliverance - we are to live in that freedom. You entered into that freedom in order to live out that freedom.

Two demands: Stand firm in this freedom and don't allow yourself to be brought again under bondage to any set of religious rules or regulations (*vs.1; John 8:36*).

II. THE DANGER: Severed from Christ (Vss. 2-4)

Failure to heed Paul's warning has 3 inevitable results:

1. **No Benefit:** Your future service will be of no profit to you, or God, or your fellow man (*vs.2*).
2. **Severed from Christ:** The believer who lives under obligation to any form of law is useless to God (*vs.4; Lk.13:7; Rom.3:3; 6:6; 7:2; 1 Cor.1:28; Gal.3:17*).
3. **Fallen from Grace:** You will fall away from the kindness of God and your usefulness to God will be ended. (*vs.4; James 1:11*).

III. THE DUTY: Serve through the Spirit (Vss.5 & 6)

What then is your duty?

- It is not keeping some set of rules and regulations.
- But it is the walk of faith.
- It is believing that our old self, our natural sinful man, died with Christ at the cross and that we have been raised with a new life activated by God the Holy Spirit.
- It is faith in His ability to make us progressively more and more like Christ.

Application

This passage is not about the doctrine of salvation. While many in Christendom interpret the passage this way this is because the idea of freedom is very offensive to some Christians.

It is about the teaching on growth in Christ, our sanctification. Yes, we are saved by faith in Christ and not through works. But the Epistle to the Galatians, including chapter 5, is not about salvation but about Christian living by faith and not by the Law and not by any set of religious rules and regulations.

We enter through the open door into the palace of the great King (our salvation), but the whole purpose of entrance is so that we might live in that palace with Him and enjoy communion and fellowship with the great King. He brings us to His great banquet feast that we might be satisfied. The great truth of Christianity is Christ in me the hope of glory (*Col.1:27*).

Examine your own life in relation to what Paul has been teaching.

1. How comfortable are you with the concept of freedom in the book of Galatians? Maybe you think that it is not possible to live this way. Maybe you are afraid that this could lead to license and not liberty. Fears, fears.
2. To what extent do you desire that someone would give you a list of regulations for Christian living? Maybe you feel – just tell me what to do and I will do it. It is easier that way.
3. Does living under the control of God the Holy Spirit cause you some concern? I have doubts that He will really guide me and show me His will. What if He asks me to do something I don't want to do? I don't have the time to really get to know Him.