

# MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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BILL SEARCH, EXECUTIVE PASTOR OF MINISTRIES

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Pastor Bill Search kicked off the summer series, I've Been Thinking, with a message from the fifth chapter of Galatians. In his letter to the Galatians, Paul took time to explain the basics of what freedom in Christ looks like. There are two temptations Christians have a tendency to fall into. We tend to seek comfort in works, rules, and legalism to feel better about ourselves.

- Do: go to church, pray, study the bible, etc.
- Don't do: cuss, dress a certain way, drink this or that, etc.

Or we tend to do what we want, when we want, however we want, regardless of how it may impact others. This is sometimes called license. Freedom in Christ is misunderstood as meaning now we are free to live with no boundaries or limits – even if our freedom hurts ourselves or others in our path.

The bottom line, though, is that freedom in Christ can be defined by these truths:

- Truth 1: True freedom is found in a growing relationship with God. (Always growing)
- Truth 2: True freedom is found in loving our neighbor

## SCRIPTURE – GALATIANS 5

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out today from Bill's message?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Read Galatians 5:1-11. How does Paul describe legalism? Where do you see legalism in the Church today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Read Galatians 5:12-21. How does Paul describe license? Where do you see license in the Church today?

4. Reread Galatians 5:16 and 5:13-14. What are the two truths of living fully in the freedom of Christ?

*"My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit." Galatians 5:16 (MSG)*

*"Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself." Galatians 5:13-14 (MSG)*

5. How would you describe your relationship with God? Is it continuing to grow?

6. How would you describe your relationship with "your neighbor" (others)? Would you say you are known by love?

7. How can we pray for you?

## **PRAYER**

Pray to God thanking him for the freedom that comes from being "in Christ". Ask him to guide you as you pursue growing your relationship with him and with others. Ask him to reveal and legalism you have mixed into your life or are imposing on others, and where you have indulged in unhealthy thoughts or activities that can harm you and your relationship with God, and damage your relationship with others.