



Law or Liberty?

Ice Breaker: We know that God called us for such a time as this. Just for fun, If you didn't live now, when would you have wished to be born? (Era or decade in History)

Galatians is the first letter written by Paul. In other letters, we see him introduce himself and greet the church. Here, he just jumps right in! The tone is upset, correcting the Galatians right out of the gate!

The backstory is that Judaizers were coming into the church and telling the believers that they had to follow the Law.

Jesus +: Paul asks, Is Christianity really “Solus Christus” Christ Alone?

Discuss:

Is Christianity really just about Jesus?

Is Christianity the work of Christ on the Cross, PLUS doing really good things?

Do you have more of a performance mindset when living your life?

Is Christ enough for you?

Legalism / License / Liberty

- **Legalism – The good news that we preach is sometimes NOT good news! We often invite people to leave one bondage for new and holier bondage.**

“In the beginning, God created man in His image, and humanity has been attempting to return the favor ever since.” - Voltaire

Read together: Galatians 5:2 (ESV)

Consider: Legalism says we have to obey the law to be right with God. It ignores the heart of God, which seeks a relationship with us, not robotic obedience. If you have accepted Christ,

you are IN. You do not owe God anymore. Often we feel that we must work to pay Him back because we cannot imagine being genuinely FREE.

Discuss:

Are you able to obey the whole law?

Are there parts of the law that you keep to make yourself feel like a godly person?

What happens inside of you when you hear, “You do not owe God anymore.”?

Do you sometimes have trouble coming to God after a moment when you feel you failed?

➤ **License**

Read together: Romans 6:15-23 (ESV)

Consider: It IS possible to take the grace of Jesus and then do whatever you want to do. However, your relationship with Jesus will be tainted and you may miss a lot of God’s best for you! Sanctification is a fancy word for becoming a little more like Jesus every day. We can abuse grace, but we miss being more like Jesus when making that choice.

Discuss:

Talk about what it would be like for you to take grace for granted. What might you do or say that would be less than God’s best for you?

How do you respond when people say that you can receive grace and do whatever you want? Is your response one of love or judgment? Is it biblical or traditional?

Consider: The consequences of ‘License’ are massive. When you look at Scripture, the thief on the cross next to Jesus got to enter paradise that same day. That’s not fair! David sinned with Bathsheba, and the advancement of taking land for the Israelites was virtually stopped. The baby she conceived died, one of his children was raped, one of his children murdered another, and the consequences go on and on. Grace is hard to grasp, especially when God extends it to people who are “worse than I am.” Wrestle with this a bit. Where do you take your license?

➤ **Liberty** - Liberty is the place in the Spirit where Jesus is inviting you to live. You are free from the law.

Read together: Galatians 5:1 (ESV)

Discuss:

Do you think it is more Spiritual to Suffer?

We are invited to be in step with the Spirit. How is God specifically inviting you to be in step with His spirit?

- **613 Laws** - The Law of Moses is 613 items long. We don't know how to be righteous. We cannot be righteous outside of Jesus; that is why we need Him.

Read together: Galatians 3:19 (ESV); Acts 15:10-11 (ESV); Galatians 2:21 (ESV); Galatians 3:10 (ESV); Galatians 5:2 (ESV); Romans 6:15 (ESV); Romans 9:30-33 (ESV); Romans 10:1-4 (ESV); Romans 14:23 (ESV); Romans 8:1-4 (ESV); Galatians 3:19 (ESV); Galatians 4:4-9 (ESV); Romans 3:30-31 (ESV); Romans 3:24 (ESV); John 8:31-36 (ESV); Galatians 5:1 (ESV)

Discuss:

- What does God care about?
- What is He like?
- What does God love?

Consider:

Why the Law? To sum up a quote from Martin Luther: Because Man is proud and he dreams that he is wise and righteous and holy. It is necessary then that he be humbled by the law so that he can see his need for a Savior.

The son of God has more authority than the law. He says you are free. You are not perfect, but you are made perfect in Jesus.

Ask God to reveal Jesus to you and give you an encounter with Jesus. Free people help other people get free!

Pray: Father, please help me walk fully in the Liberty you purchased for me through Jesus. Please help me not make it a license to follow my selfishness or permission to enslave others with the rules I think we should live by. Please help me be free so that I can help others find Freedom. In the name of Jesus, Amen.