

LIVE FREE

Free to Run!

Galatians 5:1-15

Pastor Dwayne Smith

- I. **Free to Stand** “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm...” Galatians 5:1.
 - a. What we standing firm in: The Gospel.
 - b. **THE GOSPEL:** The Gospel addresses my past, my present, and my future.
 - i. **Where did I come from?** God! This is the foundation of the Gospel, the existence and the power of God (Imago Dei – made in His image).
 - ii. **Why did He create us?** LOVE: He made us to have a relationship with Him.
 - iii. **What happened?** We rejected Him (sin) – this separated us from Him.
 - iv. **What is the solution? Jesus.** This is the answer.
 1. Believe + Receive = Become.¹ (John 1:12, Romans 8:8-11).
 2. The Gospel penetrates and transforms us.
 - c. Stand firm: Commit to where you are standing.
 - i. Commitment: Relationships are built on commitment.
 - ii. What you commit to is important. “Wise person builds their house on the rock.” (Matthew 7:24)
 1. What you stand on affects everything – if the foundation shifts, everything in the house breaks.
 2. The foundation is difficult to fix in a home. (Matthew 7:27)
 - iii. Commitment protects us – our marriage, family, relationships, business...
 - iv. Commitment protects my walk with God.
 1. Standing in the gospel protects us!
 2. It reminds us that we are right with God. It reminds us of His love.
 3. I receive nothing that is against God: “If you accept circumcision...”
 - a. Stay away from anything that seeks to “add” to the gospel.
 - b. Taking on the Old Covenant, or the Law, rejects the New Covenant, which is Christ.
 - c. This rejects grace, for “we have been saved by grace, through faith...” (Ephesians 2:8)
 - d. Focusing on the law confuses people about Jesus.
 - i. “Faith through love” - Love is the lens that we look through.
 - ii. What we should be known for – “It is by your love that people will know that you are mine” (John 13:35).

¹ Strobel, Lee. *The Case for Christ*.

II. Free to RUN!

- a. Standing firm on the Gospel gives us confidence to run (justification).
- b. We struggle with the race (sanctification – the process of living FREE).
 - i. We are “free,” but we don’t always live like we are free. “Who hindered you from obeying the truth?” (Galatians 5:7).
 - ii. Prison is tough to leave. We can be free, but still live like we are in prison.
- c. Running well means paying attention to two key things: what we take and what we give.
- d. What we take: GOSPEL
 - i. Leaven (yeast): “A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”
 1. This is a cooking analogy. Used to lighten and soften the bread.
 2. Once the yeast is in, you can’t get it out. It transforms the bread.
 3. Yeast is used a symbol for sin or false teaching.
 - ii. Our temptation is to add to the Gospel. We are tempted to make the gospel lighter and fluffier – easier to eat.
 1. Jesus + Anything = ~~GOSPEL~~(Nothing)
 2. Jesus + Nothing = GOSPEL
 - iii. Satan’s Tactic: Compromise.
 1. Biggest lie – “You can handle it.” We can’t handle sin, sin handles us (Proverbs 6:27).
 2. We think that giving in to sin will make us wiser (give you a testimony). But this was Satan’s lie to Eve (Genesis 3:5).
- e. What you GIVE: LOVE!
 - i. Freedom is not for the flesh/ourselves. This brings slavery/bondage.
 - ii. Freedom: love one another.
 - iii. The law is fulfilled in “loving your neighbor as yourself.”
 - iv. How Jesus defines love: “Love as I have loved you.” He gave His life for us. (John 13:34-35).

Reflection Questions:

- What am I standing on? Is my foundation shifting or strong?
- What areas of my life am I trying to “keep alive” that need to be surrendered to Jesus?
- Am I adding to the gospel?
- Am I committed to following Christ? How is this evident in my life?
- Am I running free in Christ?