

**“Our Precious Freedom in Christ”**  
**Galatians 5:1-6**

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*Paul presses the choice: Glorious freedom in Christ, or a yoke of slavery?*

**1. The Declaration of Freedom in Christ**

v. 1

**(1) Christ’s Purpose: To Set us Free!**

*“For freedom Christ has set us free”*

- “For freedom...” *Emphatic* the end, the goal
- “Christ freed us” - fully secured and accomplished

- Freedom from the curse of the law
- Freedom from bondage to the law

- **The implication:** Exult in this freedom! Live it out!

**(2) Christ’s Command regarding our Freedom**

*“stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”*

- 1- **Stand firm!** - Our precious freedom is to be guarded at all costs!

- 2- **Do not submit again to a yoke of slavery!** - “Do not be submitting yourselves”

- “yoke” - The “yoke” of legalistic prescriptions cf. Matt. 11:29-30; 23:4, 13-14; Acts 15:10

**2. The Alternative to Freedom in Christ: Only one! A yoke of slavery! vv. 2-4**

**If I am endeavoring to seek acceptance with God through law-keeping:**

**(1) Christ will be of no benefit to me!**

*“Look, I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you.”*

- “if you accept circumcision”
- To willingly and deliberately undergo circumcision; to embrace it as a means of justification.

**(2) I am obligated to keep the whole law!**

*“I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.”*

- **Entangled in its condemning and deadening power**

**(3) I am severed from Christ!**

*“You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.”*

- “separated,” “estranged,” “cut off from”
- To be cut off from relations with someone cf. Rom. 7:2, 6

**(4) I have fallen away from grace!**

- Grace is the life-principle. If one seeks to be justified by law, he has abandoned grace!

**3. The Superior Life of Freedom in Christ**

vv. 5-6

**(1) A life lived by the power of the Spirit!**

*“For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.”*

- “We” – emphatic *“We ourselves, for our part...”*
- “through the Spirit” contrasted with “by the law” v. 4

**(2) A life of “faith-rest”**

- Contrast the drudgery and strain of works-based life!

**(3) A life of sure hope, of positive certainty**

- “eagerly wait” = wait with expectation.
- Contrast the gloom and uncertainty of law-keeping

**(4) A life of faith manifesting itself in love**

*“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.”*

- 1- **Only faith in Christ counts for anything!**

- 2- **True faith active and powerful!** cf. James 2:22 The moral power of freedom from the law.

- Very different from life lived on the treadmill of works!
- Very different from that produced by fleshly human effort!

**Further Application**