

# Galatians

The background is a deep blue with a subtle grid pattern. On the right side, a metallic chain is shown, with one link broken and its fragments flying away, symbolizing liberation or freedom.

**Two Kinds of Freedom**

## Recap

**But when the set time had fully come,  
God sent his Son, born of a woman,  
born under the law, to redeem those  
under the law, that we might receive  
adoption to sonship. vs 4-5**

# Recap

## Abrahamic Covenant

**I will** make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; **I will** make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **I will** bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you **I will** curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. **Genesis 12:2-3**

## Mosaic Covenant

Now **if** you obey me fully and keep my covenant, **then** out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, **Exodus 19:5**

## Recap

Therefore, brothers and sisters,  
we are not children of the slave  
woman, but of **the free woman**  
**(Abrahamic Covenant)**. vs 31

We are adopted into God's family  
**Who we are**

There are forces trying to separate us  
**Internal and external**

We are children of the covenant  
**Ancient foundation**

A vertical chain of metal links is shown on the right side of the image. The top part of the chain is intact, but one link in the middle is broken, with several small metal fragments flying away from it. The background is a dark, textured surface with a faint grid pattern.

It is for **freedom** that Christ  
has set us free. **vs 1**

But do not use your **freedom** to  
indulge the flesh **vs 13**

# The Bonds of Freedom, Roger Olson

**The biblical idea of freedom is different from, but easily confused with, the cultural value of the same name. It can be confusing to the average Christian who wants to know what "real freedom" is. Is it having choices? Is it lack of coercion and constraint? Is it being able to do whatever you want? In what sense does Christ set us free, and how is that different from what Madison Avenue and Hollywood promise?**

# The Bonds of Freedom, Roger Olson

The great church father Augustine taught that true freedom is not choice or lack of constraint, **but being what you are meant to be.** Humans were created in the image of God. **True freedom, then, is not found in moving away from that image but only in living it out.** The closer we conform to the true image of God, Jesus Christ, the freer we become. The farther we drift from it, the more our freedom shrinks.

# The Bonds of Freedom, Roger Olson

"A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian man is the most **dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.**"

**Martin Luther, On Christian Liberty, 1520**

"True freedom is found not in insisting on one's own rights, but in freely giving them up by **being a servant to Jesus Christ first and the people of God second.**" **John Howard Yoder, The Politics of Jesus**

# Galatians 5:1-12

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. **Stand firm**, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a **yoke of slavery**. vs 1



# Galatians 5:1-12

**"stand firm in the faith" (1 Cor 16:13)**

**"stand firm in one spirit" (Phil 1:27)**

**"stand firm in the Lord" (Phil 4:1)**

**What God has done gives us  
the opportunity and power  
to do what we must do.**

## Galatians 5:1-12

have discarded the **Jewish laws** and are living like a Gentile, why are you



before Christ came, we were like children; **we were slaves to the basic spiritual principles of this world. 4:3**

# Galatians 5:1-12

I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favour with God by being circumcised, you must obey **every** regulation in the **whole law of Moses.** vs 3

## Galatians 5:1-12

You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; **you have fallen away from grace.** For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. **The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.** vs 4-6

**the law compels us, grace invites us**

## Galatians 5:1-12

For it is **by grace you have been saved, through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, **so that no one can boast**. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.** **Ephesians 2:8-10**

# Galatians 5:13-26

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But **do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh;** vs 13a

rather, **serve** one another **humbly** in love. vs 13b

**two sides of freedom**



# Galatians 5:13-26

For the **entire law** is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “**Love your neighbour as yourself.**” If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. **vs 14-15**

**the law is fulfilled when we serve**

## Galatians 5:13-26

So I say, walk by the Spirit, and **you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.** For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. **But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.** vs 16-18

**the flesh and law are wrapped in each other, only the Spirit can free**

## Galatians 5:13-26

The **acts of the flesh** are obvious **vs 19**

sexual immorality, impurity and  
debauchery (**relational**)

idolatry and witchcraft (**worship**)

hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage,  
selfish ambition, dissensions, factions  
and envy (**body behaviour**)

drunkenness, orgies, and  
the like (**desires**)

I warn you, as I did before, that  
**those who live like this will not**  
inherit the kingdom of God.

# Galatians 5:13-26

But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. **Against such things there is no law.** vs 22-23



## Galatians 5:13-26

Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its **passions and desires**. Since we live by the Spirit, **let us keep in step with the Spirit.** vs 24-25

**Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.** vs 26