



Sermon Main Idea:

As an Evangelical Covenant Church, we **affirm the reality of freedom in Christ**. United in Christ, we offer freedom to one another to differ on issues of belief or practice where the biblical and historical record seems to allow for a variety of interpretations of the will and purposes of God. We in the Covenant Church seek to focus on what unites us as followers of Christ, rather than on what divides us.

Introduction:

1. What does “freedom” mean?
2. How have you seen freedom impact someone’s life?

SORP:

Scripture | read Galatians 5:1-2

Observation | what do we notice? what stands out?

1. What does it mean that Christ has set us free for freedom?
2. What is the freedom that Paul speaks of to the Galatians from? In other words, what was the “yoke of slavery” that they were to stand firm against?
3. What do you think Paul meant in verse 2 when he said that Christ would be of no value to you if you let yourselves be circumcised?
4. Read Galatians 5:3-12. What else do you learn about the freedom we can have in Christ?
5. From this text, what struggles do you think that the Galatian church was facing in that time?

Response | how can we respond in our lives to what we learn?

1. Why do you think that followers of Jesus have a tendency to minimize the freedom that Christ gives by constructing more boundaries/rules, as the Galatians struggled against?
2. What are some of these boundaries/rules that we tend to create for our faith? In other words, what are some examples of the “yoke of slavery” that we are to stand firm against?
3. How might creating boundaries/rules impact our relationship with God?
4. What is the yoke that you want to be known for? Freedom or rules? Liberation or laws? What does it look like to move toward that in your own life? In the church?
5. How might God be calling you to respond to His Word today?

Prayer | ask God to help you live out your response