Life Team Notes

**Ekklesia: Church Blueprint - week of 9/24**

**Hang**

* Are you a rule follower? Why do you think so?
* If you do no follow rules, why is it hard to follow?
* When you are a rule follower, does that make you a better person?
* Does it make you better than others?

**Hear**

* This past Sunday we looked at 1 Timothy 4:1-6 (reading it is optional) it dealt with legalism. Do you remember what it means?

**Legalism: Any attempt to help God out with extra rules and regulations**

Any time we try to reach God or help God out with manmade rules, rituals, or regulations. “If I do this, God owes me or will like me more.”

Isaiah 29:13, Matthew 15:7-20 (optional story)

* Have you ever thought that doing certain things would make God like you better? What were they?

**The Gospel Equations:**

\* Jesus (faith in who he is & what he has done) + Nothing = Everything

\* Jesus + Anything (legalism) = ruins everything

* Do you agree with these? Why or why not?
* Would you agree that the goal of every true Christian church is to share the freedom, grace, and hope of Jesus to the world?
* Are Christians very good at this? Why or why not?
* Do the rules & regulations that Christians impose on others ever affect this?
* What are some examples of legalism in churches?

Today we are going to read what the Apostle Paul says about this to the Galatians.

Galatians 5:1

* What is Freedom? What does it look like? Is it political, religious, financial, and free from all oppression?
* Who set’s us free? (Not you, Allah, Krishna, Mohammad, Confucius, ancestors)

1. **True freedom is knowing and following Jesus Christ!**

The Bible says no matter where you are born you are born into slavery

Bible is pretty clear on two things - We are: Slaves to sin - Slaves to death

* Do you agree with that? Why or why not?

**Jesus was crucified for our sin, buried & rose again from the grave - conquered sin *and* death – by faith we are no longer slaves to sin or death! (We are FREE!)**

1. **Trying to work for God’s approval only leads to more work!**

Galatians 5:2-3

* We can spend our whole life trying and still fall short. Why is that?

1. **Works are about – US / Grace is about – JESUS**

Works says look how good I am / Grace says look how good He is

* How does knowing this help to live in freedom?

1. **We are righteous in Jesus.**

Galatians 5:4-6

* What do you think Paul is saying in those verses?

1. **Bad religion starts small and grows and can mess up a good faith**

Galatians 5:7-12

* What do you think verse 10-12 means?

1. **Freedom in Jesus is not an excuse to live recklessly**

Galatians 5:13

* Christians tend to fall into Legalism (just in case rules) or License (I can do whatever I want). Which one do you think is more prevalent? Why?
* How do you draw the line between liberty, license, and legalism?

1. **Faith manifests itself by Love and Freedom is characterized by love**

Galatians 5:13-15

\* The cross kills both License and legalism in order to produce Love

* Why do you think Paul includes v. 15 in the conversation?

**And likewise, Paul says in reverse, unloving people destroy each other (v.15)** Like cannibals feasting on each other. Without love - we end up ruining friendships, splitting families, and marriages, and destroy churches

* How’s your love?
* Are you strong in your love? Are you strong in serving each other?

**Huddle**

Reread Galatians 5:13

* Discuss the challenges between liberty, license, and legalism?
* Prayer requests

**Home**

Read Galatians 5:16-24

* Break down each verse and rewrite what you think it means

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Isaiah 29:13, Matthew 15:7-20, Galatians 5:1-15

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We are: Slaves to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- Slaves to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Bible says no matter where you are born you are born into slavery

1. **Trying to work for God’s approval only leads to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
2. **Works are about – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , Grace is about – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
3. **We are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus.**
4. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ starts small and grows, and can mess up a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
5. **Freedom in Jesus is not an excuse to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
6. **Faith manifests itself by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and Freedom is characterized by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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