



## Free to Love

### RECAP

**This week's focus: The Gospel transforms our relationships by focusing on the grace of God.**

The Gospel of grace changes everything. The Spirit of God created for us a new reality and whole new way of living. As believers in Christ, we now live in the power of the resurrection. This power impacts how we see the world and how we relate to one another.

Paul wraps up his final teaching in Galatians with practical applications on how we respond to one another as *Gospel people*. As a new creation, God gives us a whole new self-image which is not based on comparisons with others. Only the Gospel makes us neither self-confident nor self-disparaging, but both bold and humble. That works itself out in our relationships with everyone. Rather than comparing ourselves with those we consider above or below us, we look only at our own responsibility to take what we have and are then offer it to God as a sacrifice of gratitude for what Christ has done.

Paul wants to show how keeping in step with the Spirit will transform our relationships. At its heart, it will mean that we deal with what it means to be *conceited*. Conceit is a toxic poison that shows up in two different forms, superiority, and inferiority. Both draw us away from the Gospel by focusing on self and the proverbial comparison trap.

Gospel centered people find their self-worth and identity rooted in Christ. That comes with a bold humility that builds healthy relationships. The Gospel is very practical. It not only puts us in right relationship with God, but it paves the way on how we relate to one another. We create Gospel community when we build others up in a way that brings restoration and healing. When we are truly free, we are able to carry one another's burdens and give generously to the needs of others. All of this is made possible because of the work that Jesus did on the cross.

Paul ends his letter to the Galatians and to us by coming back to the Gospel. His summary is: All I am about, is the Gospel. All I want to leave you with, is the Gospel. Some people boast about how well they keep the law. Others boast how talented or beautiful they are. Some boast about how much they know. Paul tells us that he doesn't boast about any of those things. "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation." (6:14-15)

You might think that the message of the Gospel is unimpressive, however it carries with it the power of new creation. That power is greater than any technique, knowledge, talent, financial status, or ritual. It is stronger than the strongest power in the world. It is the power of resurrection.

What began by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, we continue in by grace, not by anything we do or adding anything to it. This Gospel of grace is not a set of abstract truths. It is a way of life both now and in the life to come!



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### SHARE (5-10 min)

Icebreaker Question: If you had to sum up the message of the whole book of Galatians in a few words, what would you say?

### STUDY (about 30 min) Read Galatians 5:25-6:18

1. What about the reading or message on Sunday stood out to you? Is there anything that was unclear, or that you have questions about?
2. How does the Gospel humble you? How does it complete you? How does the Gospel redefine your relationships?
3. Paul gives some practical teaching on relationships in the church. What is the best approach to helping a Christian brother caught in sin? Paul says "you who are spiritual" should help. To whom does this refer?
4. Why do you think he gives such a strong warning when it comes to the dangers of conceit (empty glory)? Which are you more likely to struggle with in relation to other people, provoking, or envying?
5. What does it mean to carry each other's burdens? In what ways do we create burdens? What opportunities has God given you to carry the burdens of others?
6. What is the difference between "carrying the burdens of others" and "carrying your own load" (vs. 5)?
7. How have you seen the "principle of the harvest" (sowing and reaping) at work in your own life? Share a positive and a negative example.
8. The Gospel changes the basis of your identity, and the cross becomes the very thing that sets you free. In what ways have you been set free through the study of the book of Galatians? Are there any particular changes the Spirit is prompting you to make?

### SUPPORT (15 min)

Pray that GateWay Bible Church continues to be a Gospel centered community. Share your burdens with one another and pray that God will work in you and through you to bring the Good News to Santa Cruz County.