

Pacific Growth Group Sermon Questions

Week of January 29th, 2023

Sermon Series: Gospel = Life

Sermon Theme: What does God want me to do with my life?

Primary Text(s): Galatians 5:1-13

1. **Read Galatians 5:1-13.** From your reading and reflection on this passage, *share with each other the key themes that have emerged from the text. How do these themes inform your understanding of God's character?*
2. *Share your experience(s) with wrestling with the question, "what am I supposed to do with my life?"*
 - a. *Are there integral life questions that you have been processing lately?*
3. **Read Galatians 5:1 in the NLT and the NIV.**
 - a. NLT: "**So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.**"
 - b. NIV: "**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.**"
 - i. Martin Luther is quoted as saying, "Jesus has set us free for us to live free."
 1. *What does it mean to live a life of freedom in your estimation?*
 2. *As you assess your life in this season, would you say that you are living a life of freedom?*
 - a. *Is yes, what practices do you engage in/with to help you experience the life of freedom Jesus offers to those who believe in Him through His Spirit's empowerment?*
 - b. *If no, what prevents you from living the life filled with freedom that Jesus provides to those who believe in Him through His Spirit?*
4. Galatians 5:2-4, states, "**2 Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. 4 For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.**"

- a. In this passage, Paul cautions his readers to avoid putting anything or anyone in the place of God's grace poured on them through Jesus' sacrifice to make them right with God.
 - i. *Can you recall a time in your life when you relied upon something or someone other than God's grace through Jesus' sacrifice to make you right with God?*
 - ii. *How can we guard against the temptation to be dependent on self or other sources to find true and lasting freedom in our lives?*
5. **Refer to Galatians 5:5-6.** A life filled with freedom is available to all who believe in Jesus. This freedom in Christ includes freedom from sin and death (guilt and shame). It also includes freedom to live with purpose by the Spirit's empowerment, who enables us to grow in righteousness as we are progressively sanctified.
 - a. *Discuss a few steps your group may continually take to help you to grow in righteousness as Spirit empowered believers who are being progressively sanctified.*
6. Believers are also called to live our lives in freedom that comes from Jesus that expresses itself in love. *How might God be inviting your group to express the love of Jesus to those in your circle of influence in this time?*