

Title: Free Spirit

Text: Galatians 5:1, 13, 16–26

Target: True freedom isn't the right to do what I want — it's the power to live how Christ wants.

1. **Freedom's Foundation: Statues of Liberty**

a. **Set Free:** *"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."* (Vs. 1)

b. **Stand Free:** *"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong."* (1 Cor. 16:13)

c. **Stay Free:** *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* (John 8:36)

Question: In what ways have you personally experienced Christ setting you free? Where are you still tempted to "submit again to a yoke of slavery"?

Question: What does it look like in your daily life to *stand firm* in the freedom Christ has given you instead of wavering in fear or doubt?

2. **Freedom's Function: Can Do Vs. Can't Do**

a. **Don't Gratify the Flesh:** *"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh,"* (Vs. 13a)

b. **Consider Others above Yourself:** *"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."* (Philippians 2:3)

c. **Break Chains in Love:** *"...but through love serve one another."* (Vs. 13b)

Question: How do you usually think about freedom, as "the right to do what I want" or "the power to live how Christ wants"? Why?

Question: What's one practical way you can "through love serve one another" this week, putting others before yourself?

3. **Freedom's Fight: Fight for your Right!**

a. **Walk in the Spirit:** *"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."* (Vs. 16)

b. **War in the Spirit:** *"For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do."* (Vs. 17)

c. **Warning in the Spirit:** *"...those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."* (Vs. 21b)

Question: Where do you most feel the battle between flesh and Spirit in your life right now? How are you choosing to walk in the Spirit in that struggle?

Question: What guardrails or disciplines can help you avoid slipping into the warnings Paul gives about living in the flesh?

4. **Freedom's Fruit: Abiding leads to Producing**

- a. **Evidence of the Spirit:** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."* (Vs. 22-23)
- b. **Execution in the Spirit:** *"And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."* (Vs. 24)
- c. **Expression of the Spirit:** *"If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit."* (Vs. 25)

Question: Looking at the fruit of the Spirit, which one do you see God already producing in your life? Which one do you struggle to show consistently?

Question: What does it mean for you personally to "keep in step with the Spirit," and how can your group encourage you in that this week?

Takeaway: Christ sets us free, the Spirit keeps us free, and love shows the world we are free.

Challenge:

This week, don't just talk about freedom — *live it out in love*. Find one area of your life where you need to walk in the Spirit instead of the flesh and surrender it to God. Then, take the next step by serving others:

Join us at **Saturday Serve** next Saturday and let's put freedom into action together by loving and blessing our community!

<https://www.communitybible.com/saturdayserve>