

HEAVENS FREEDOM #3

Introduction: Have you ever had mind games in your head? Thoughts that seem to contradict what you believe?

ILLUSTRATION: Defense lawyer cross-examining police officer...

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

- Key verse – Paul uses the rest of Galatians to unpack what this means.
- He emphasizes:
 - Die to the old life
 - How to live a full spiritual life.

1. Freedom

- Last week, we saw the position we have as heirs
 - Adult sons and daughters of God
 - We were once in prison (Galatians 3:22)
 - The prison door has been opened, but are we stuck?

Galatians 5:1 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.

- “It is for freedom...” – not bondage.
- Do you try to justify your actions?
 - To ourselves to appease our conscience?
 - Law is written in our hearts
 - To others who put their expectations on to us
 - Imposed on us, or external pressures
 - To God because we have not lived up to HIS standard?
 - God’s commands were a framework for living
 - God’s law was to lead us to Christ for salvation.

Galatians 5:4 *You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.*

- Do I really want to make excuses or throw ourselves on His mercy and grace?
- What is my freedom for?

Galatians 5:13 *You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.*

- We are free – to serve.

2. Life

- If service to God and others produces life, why do I struggle?

Galatians 5:17 *for the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.*

- Tussle between spirit and sinful nature.
- BUT! There is a promise...

Galatians 5:16 *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

- Three areas of life by the Spirit:
 - LIVE by the Spirit –
 - Source of power; at home with the Spirit.
 - LED by the Spirit (Galatians 5:18)
 - Open to the Holy spirit's conviction, desires and direction.
 - WALK (keep in step) with the Spirit (Galatians 5:25)
 - ILLUSTRATION: Waltz moves

3. Fruit.

- The contrast between the life by the Spirit and the sinful nature is stark.

Galatians 5:19-21a *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies and the like...*

- The ACTS of sinful nature are centred on:
 - Self
 - Bringing chaos
 - Disunity
 - Bondage
- Living that way will not inherit the kingdom of God
- Implication the Spirit was never in - or squeezed out.

ILLUSTRATION: *Monstera deliciosa* fruit...

- Many flavours, one fruit.
- Uniform, not chaotic
- Not focused on self.



Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: Joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures, kindness in action, a life full of virtue, faith that prevails, gentleness of heart, and strength of spirit. Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to be limitless.*

- Strength of spirit = self-control.
 - Literally “Lordship”
 - The word “self” is not in the original.

Conclusion:

Galatians 2:20 *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*