

Study 12
Galatians 5:1-6

1. Why is the Mosaic law described as a yoke of slavery?
2. Why can't a Gentile or Chinese Christian undergo circumcision anyway knowing that his ultimate salvation is in Christ but he wanted to undergo it just to be sure cover his bets, and be more authentic?
3. Why does Paul place such a non-compromising stand by saying that if we are circumcised we have broken off our relationship with Christ?

4. a) In Gal 1 Paul writes in Galatians 1:6 (ESV) *"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel."* How is insisting on circumcision as well as the cross a different Gospel?

b) Discussion Question. Can you think of some church practices that are imposed on believers as a supplement to the cross which may pose a danger of being a different gospel?

5. If in all honesty, righteousness is not what we daily hope or live for, as we are so distracted with so many worldly pursuits in our lives right now, how do we change our perspective and trajectory of our lives to gain this? How does this give us true freedom?

Galatians 5:5 (ESV) 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness

6. What does this verse mean to you and how do you see all your ministry actions in the light of this verse? *Galatians 5:6 (ESV) 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.*

Case Study

Patty was a single lady in her 30s who came from a large family. All her 6 sisters had married early and had many children. Her parents were marvellous with all their grandkids and with the arrival of each one there was much celebration. Being a typical traditional Chinese family whose grandfather had come straight off the boat from Shanghai during the Malayan Federation they believed that there was something radically wrong with any woman of that age who was still single. She wrestled greatly with shame and unworthiness. She also had tremendous unresolved anger against a man she had dated for many years but who had not married her. She went to a counselor in the 3rd Baptist church. The therapist rightly told her that she had taken to heart her family's approach to personal value and worth. They taught that a woman had to have a husband and children if she was to have any value or worth. She was bitter against this man only because he had come between her and the thing she felt she needed to have to have value. The counselor then proposed that she throw off such an unenlightened view and throw herself into a career. ☒

1. Is her counselor correct in this advice? Why or why not?

2. How should she apply the gospel in this situation instead of learning to forgive?

3. When we have been hurt by someone we will find it difficult to forgive them. We feel they owe us a debt for the hurt they have inflicted. It is either they pay or we pay and absorb the debt.

a) What are the ways in which we typically make those who have wronged us pay?

b) If we decide to forgive them we must therefore absorb the debt instead of making them pay. How can we do this practically?

4. Reflection Question. Have you had encounters in your life where you had been hurt by certain people and had difficulty forgiving them? Share with the group your experience and now that you know the gospel how would you have dealt with them differently?

Takeaway

Galatians 5:1-6 invites believers to embrace the freedom that comes from faith in Christ, rejecting legalistic attempts to achieve righteousness and instead living out a life of love as evidence of genuine faith.