

Galatians *Freedom in Christ*

6. Standing Firm

Galatians 5.1-15.

Aim: To think about areas of our life where we are standing firm in our faith, but also to consider those areas where perhaps we have slipped backwards, and to consider how we can trust in God more fully and so stand firm.

To start with:

- When have **you** felt really free, why? What emotions were tied up with that sensation?

Or:

- Show people the Youtube clip '*Clumsy best man ruins my wedding*' and ask people how often they think the disasters in our lives are caused by other people, or self-inflicted?

Engaging with the Text:

Read Galatians 5.1-15 together.

1. Give each person 1-2 verses and ask them to summarise them up or paraphrase them.
Now read the passage again in the paraphrase.
What strikes people about this passage?

(This pushes people to really think about what Paul is saying and not to just focus on the bits they are very familiar with)

2. How would you describe Paul's feelings on this subject? Why do you think he is so emphatic? (Or do you think he's being a bit over the top?)
What does his passion tell us about what is at stake here?

3. Why do you think the Galatians, having been saved by their faith, are being tempted or pulled backwards into Jewish laws?
In what ways is it related to issues of trust and insecurity?
4. Paul comments that they were doing really well - growing in faith - but now they are stumbling.
 - a. How normal do you think that is for Christians?
 - b. What sorts of things do you think can make people stumble/ do people tend to trust rather than God? What would you say are the consequences of that?
 - c. Why do you think we are so often tempted to put our trust in other things when we **know** the truth?
5.
 - a. How does Paul exhort the Galatians to get back on track?
 - b. What sorts of things would help YOU to stay 'running well' (v7)? (What has helped you to get back on track in the past?)
 - c. As a cell how might you help each other to trust God more fully and continue to grow in your faith?

Worship & Pray:

Give people the list of verses about freedom enclosed. Ask them to pick one to meditate on for a few minutes and then spend some time praying in response to that.

