

## **Worship Discussion and Reflection Questions**

**Sermon:** Our Response to the Gospel

**Scripture:** Galatians 5:1-5; 12-18; 24-25

*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. Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.*

*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. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 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. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.*

*Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

### **Reflection Questions:**

- Have you ever been offered something for free, but were skeptical?
- What legalistic expectations do you put on yourself or others? How might those hinder you from experiencing God's love and grace?
- In what ways do you use God's grace as an excuse to sin (and/or do what you want knowing you are forgiven)? How might this hinder you from experiencing God's love and grace?
- How does holiness help us to love others?
- What are the ways you cultivate life in the Holy Spirit?

### **Guided Prayer:**

*Praise God for His gospel of freedom. Thank Him for the specific ways He shows you grace. Repent of any legalism in your life. Repent of any ways you exploit God's grace through sin. Ask Him to help you to live by the Spirit.*

*Commit to live by the Spirit (with His help) today. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

In Christ,

- Jim