

# LEGALISM IS NOT LEGAL

## *I Am Free*

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. (NIV)

### 1. Christ has set us free from religion

Galatians 5:2-4 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. <sup>3</sup> Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. <sup>4</sup> You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. (NIV)

Galatians 6:15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation. (NIV)

### 2. Christ has set us free from sin

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. (NIV)

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? (NIV)

Romans 6:15-18 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. <sup>18</sup> You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (NIV)

Romans 6:22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. (NIV)

### 3. Christ has set us free to live by faith

Galatians 2:15-16 “We who are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’ <sup>16</sup> know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. (NIV)

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. (NIV)

Galatians 3:8-9 The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you."<sup>9</sup> So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (NIV)

Galatians 3:11-12 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith."<sup>12</sup> The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." (NIV)

Galatians 3:24-26 So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.<sup>25</sup> Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.<sup>26</sup> You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, (NIV)

Galatians 5:5-6 But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.<sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (NIV)

#### 4. Christ has set us free to love one another

Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. (NIV)

Galatians 5:13-15 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.<sup>14</sup> The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."<sup>15</sup> If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. (NIV)

#### 5. Christ has set us free to live by the Spirit

Galatians 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. (NAS)

Galatians 5:19-23 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;<sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions<sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (NIV)

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (NIV)

### **CG Questions**

1. What is the difference between religion and a relationship with Christ?
2. What does it mean that a Christian is set free from the power of sin?
3. What does Paul mean when he says that the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love?
4. What does it mean that a Christian is free to live by the Spirit, instead of by the flesh?