

<sup>1</sup>For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

<sup>2</sup>Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. <sup>3</sup>I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. <sup>4</sup>You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

<sup>5</sup>For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

<sup>6</sup>For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

<sup>7</sup>You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? <sup>8</sup>This persuasion is not from him who calls you. <sup>9</sup>A little leaven leavens the whole lump. <sup>10</sup>I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. <sup>11</sup>But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. <sup>12</sup>I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

<sup>13</sup>For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>14</sup>For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." <sup>15</sup>But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

English Standard Version (ESV)

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Discussion questions:

Anything you want to talk about from what you've heard? Which error do you feel more prone to – legalism or licence?

## Galatians 5:1-15

### The gospel of love

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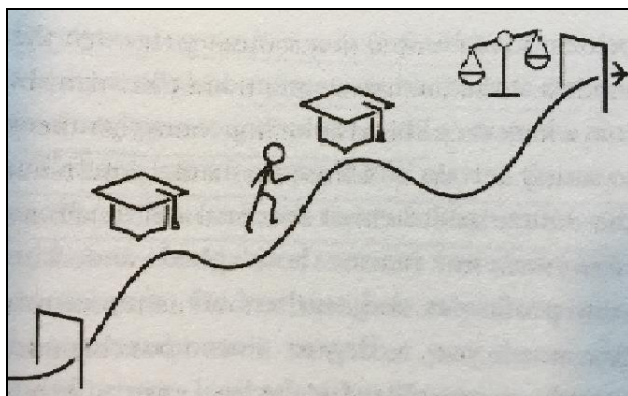
- Scylla & Charybdis

#### **DON'T LOSE YOUR FREEDOM – through legalism (v1-12)**

- stand firm (v1) <sup>1</sup>
- be warned (v2-4) <sup>2</sup>
- wait eagerly (v5)
- have faith (v6)
- keep running (v7-12)

#### **DON'T ABUSE YOUR FREEDOM – through licence (v13-15)**

- not freedom to sin (v13a)
- freedom to serve (v13b-15)



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<sup>1</sup> Acts 15:10; Matthew 11:28

<sup>2</sup> Xt + c = 0