

## Walk This Way - Part 9

### Walk in Freedom

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We are in a series on how God wants us to walk. Today we are going to focus on how to walk in freedom.

#### **Understanding the Truth**

**Read:** Galatians 5:1

Freedom is found when you live in between two extremes: Legalism and License.

Paul addressed legalism in Galatians to an audience that was trying to earn their way into God's favor. He explains that our only hope is to receive what Jesus so wonderfully made available to us on the cross. Our sins are forgiven. We are made new. We are free!

**Reflect:** What does legalism mean to you? Have you ever found yourself edging toward legalism and not walking in freedom?

**Read:** Jude 4:1

The other side of the pendulum is license. Another way to describe this side is abusing God's grace. The reason we want to avoid this is because landing here puts us back in another kind of bondage. We end up believing a lie that whatever we find here is harmless and fun. Many of you know exactly what that means because that is your experience. There was a time in your life where you thought you were having fun and being cool, but instead of being free – you found yourself in bondage.

**Reflect:** What is the difference in abusing God's grace and living in God's grace? Have you ever thought to yourself that you might sin and ask forgiveness later?

#### **How Do We Live in This Space?**

**Read:** Genesis 2:15-16; Ecclesiastes 3:1; Proverbs 11:14; Philippians 4:7

The freedom God gave Adam and Eve says something about how He wants us to live life. There is room in God to explore, to express desire, and there is room in God for a grand adventure. Here are three questions to ask yourself to assess if you are living in the space between legalism and license:

1. What season am I in? Sometimes you need to lean more towards one side, but you should always return to the middle.
2. What do my friends advise? An honest, Christian friend can sometimes evaluate your situation better than you can and give godly advice.
3. Where do I find peace? Learning the way the Holy Spirit gives caution and affirmation in your soul enables you to experience the peace and freedom of Christ.

**Reflect:** What season are you in: are you walking closer to legalism or license?

#### **Summary**

So, what does it mean to walk in the freedom of Christ? It means living my life avoiding the excesses of legalism and license. In here (this middle space) there is lots of room to play AND have freedom. This is where all the good stuff is found!

**Prayer:** Make time to pray for one another before you dismiss your group.