

Message

SERVING TOGETHER

AUGUST 23/24, 2014 | PASTOR JIM CALER | 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7, JOHN 8:32

"Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:23)

Before Christ We Were Prisoners

- Prisoners to the sinful nature that ruled in us (Galatians 3:22)
- Prisoners to the law (Galatians 3:23)

In Christ We Are Free (Galatians 5:1,13)

Four Perspectives We Bring To Galatians 5:13

1. "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge your sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love, **if it's not too hard or requires too much of me.**" (Ecclesiastes 11:4)
2. "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge your sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love, **when you get around to it.**" (Matthew 21:28-31; James 1:22)
3. "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge your sinful nature; rather, **serve God in love.**" (Colossians 3:23; 1 Peter 4:11)
4. "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge your sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love, **and don't worry if anyone knows it was you or not...**"

Self-serving service versus self-less service

- Self-serving service is concerned with the "big deal"
- True service embraces any opportunity

Self-serving service is concerned with external rewards

- True service is content in hiddenness

Self-serving service is concerned with reciprocation

- True service neither expects or seeks a response (Philippians 2:3)

Responses

- First Serve List
- S.H.A.P.E. Assessment (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experiences)

Study Guide

Opening Up:

1. When you first moved away from home, what did "freedom" mean to you?
Free to do what? Free from what?

Digging In:

Read Galatians 5:1-15

2. What do you think it means to be "free in Christ"?
3. How have you seen Christian Freedom Abused?
4. How can verses 6 and 13 help prevent this type of abuse?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

5. Who has been given spiritual gifts?
6. Who are they from and what is their purpose?
7. How does the diversity of gifts given serve to unite us together as a body?

Living It Out:

8. Which of the 4 perspectives shared on Galatians 3:15 do you want to see either less of or more of in your life? (for example: I don't want to let obstacles derail me from serving like the first one, or I want to serve more with the attitude of serving God not man like the third one)
9. Where are you currently serving or considering serving?