



Faith Expressing Love, Not A Licence To Sin | Galatians 5:6-15

1. Begin by recapping in your mind, what are the essentials of the gospel? You could think back to some of the teaching from Chris on 8th January, or review 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and Romans 10:9.
2. Do you think a person needs to be good in order to become a Christian? Thinking back to your own conversion experience, were you asked or did you feel any pressure to do anything in addition to confessing your faith, or to give anything up? Might this sometimes be important? Why, or why not?
3. Read Galatians 5:1-15 so that you can see verses 6-15 in context. Why does Paul say circumcision has no value (see vs.2-3)? In view of that, should Christians obey any part of the Old Testament law?
4. How would you answer a critic of the Christian faith who might accuse Christians of doing whatever they like without a care, knowing they can just confess their sin and be forgiven afterwards? (v. 13 and Romans 6:1-2)
5. Are there any times as a Christian when you've lived life, subconsciously or actively, treating God's grace as a licence to sin? How did that feel at the time? What do you think it might have done to your relationship with God, if anything?
6. How would you explain to a young Christian the meaning of repentance? Is it an essential precondition of God's forgiveness?
7. Might there be any areas of sin in your life you are still struggling with, eg habits you can't seem to escape from, where you seem to be trapped in a continuous repeating cycle of 'sin – confess – repent – sin again'? Take a moment to confess them once again and express sorrow for exchanging the truth of God for a lie (Romans 1:25) before asking God's help and power to break the cycle.

How might this text and similar passages such as Romans 6:11-23 and 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 10:13 and 2 Corinthians 10:5 help in training our mind to desire the things of God instead?

8. Having been set free from the law, what are we saved *for* or *to*? (vs 13-16) Discuss ways, as individuals and as a small group, we might be able to grow in our love for one another (see John 13:35 and 1 Peter 1:22-2:3).