

Life Church Handout for August 11, 2013

The Gospel - Accept No Substitutes (Part 12)

- **Read the Passage: Galatians 5:1-15**
- **Exegetical Idea**
Stay free in Christ rather than in slavery to the law and use your freedom to serve one another rather than attack one another.
- **What does this mean?**
 - Those who pursue circumcision obligate themselves to obey the whole law and alienate themselves from Christ, whereas those whose faith is in Christ await righteousness through the Spirit.
 - The agitators who are teaching circumcision are speaking neither for God nor for Paul and might as well go ahead and emasculate themselves rather than continue contaminating the Galatians.
 - The Galatians should be loving and serving each other rather than attacking one another.
- **Is it True? Do I believe it?**
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- **What difference does it make? So What?**
 - Pursuing your identity as part of God's family through anything other than Christ will actually alienate you from Christ and his grace.
 - Be very careful of people who give you extra hoops to jump through in order to be pleasing to God - it only takes a little bit of their teaching to contaminate a congregation.
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 - Any teaching that results in believers attacking each other is suspect.
- **Homiletical Idea:**
Choose freedom over slavery and love over attacks.
- **Discussion Questions**
 - Are you part of God's family? How do you know?
 - What other teachers/ministries do you pay attention to? Are there ways in which they promote justification by anything other than faith in Christ?
 - Have you ever attacked other believers about something they believed? If so, reevaluate your behavior in light of this passage and discuss.
 - Do you use your freedom in Christ to serve or to attack? Discuss.

Life Church Mission Statement

Our mission is to teach people:

to enjoy knowing Jesus without fear, inadequacy, guilt, or shame,
to follow him together as his family,
to function together as his body,
and to work together to expand his kingdom.

Understanding The Bible

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Here, for your convenience, are the Bible references for today's sermon at Life Church. We use mostly the New International Version (NIV) of the Bible so that you can read it in modern English. You may have been accustomed to reading or hearing the King James Version of the Bible, which uses older English (with words like "thee" , "thou", "thine", "believeth", etc.). Don't be alarmed - the passages are really from the Bible!

The Bible was originally written in three ancient languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. None of the people in the Bible, and none of the people who God used to write it spoke English. In fact, English did not even exist as a language when the Bible was written. The King James Version, first published in 1611, was a translation of the Bible from it's original languages into the every day English that people used back then - almost 400 years ago! They didn't just speak that way in church - they spoke that way with everyone. The King James Version was "modernized" in 1769, but, even so, English has certainly changed a lot since then!

We believe that if you're reading an English translation of the Bible it ought to be up to date - written in the English you speak every day. God wants you to understand his Word so that you can put it into practice!