

Christian Freedom

Read Gal. 5:1,2,6,13,14

Christ came to set us free – we were called to be free.
Many Christians have difficulty with that freedom.

Because being free can be scary. It makes you a responsible person.
Being a slave is in some ways easy – other people decide what you must do and not do.

Some people are very happy with many rules and regulations – that gives security. But Paul says: do not become a slave of rules and regulations – for Christ wants you to be free.

Following all sorts of rules and regulations does not help us to come closer to God, it creates a barrier.

Other people don't like laws and regulations of the bible – they reject all that and they do only what they want to do. They think they can decide for themselves how to live. They reject all rules – but they follow one rule – the rule of sin. That is also slavery. Sin also separates us from God.

Christ calls us to walk the narrow path – not on the left with law, not on the right with lawlessness. But in the middle. That is the road of freedom.

How do we walk on that kingly highway? Paul says: the entire law is summed up in: love your neighbour.

In verse 6 he says: the only thing that counts is faith, working through love.
Faith is not a matter of rules and law, and it does not allow a life in sin.
Faith attaches us to Jesus and to God – and expresses itself in love.

Faith brings us into a relationship with God – and that relationship does not need all sorts of rules and regulation, and it does not survive sin. But it is the best there is.

So we must always be careful not to fall into the trap of legalism or of sin – they destroy our relationship with Jesus that we have through faith alone, and that we enjoy in love for each other.