

Freedom in Christ

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1

As many of you probably know by now, the Apostle Paul is my hero, my idol. I do believe that he received his Gospel directly from the risen Christ. And his letter to the Galatians was written even before the Synoptic Gospels. According to Paul, our freedom in Christ refers to two different, yet equally important types of freedom.

In one sense, the indwelling Holy Spirit enables us to live godly lives. The idea is that the natural man is not “free” to do what he wants. In his inner being, what Paul calls the mind, he wants to obey the law (ie. God’s moral and ethical law), but is prevented from doing so because due to the weakness of the fleshly nature. When we harness the power of the Spirit within us we gain the freedom to do what we really want to do.

In another sense, by grace we are freed from the obligation of having to earn our salvation through human effort and obedience to the law. I would also add that we have been freed from the obligations of the ceremonial law as well, which I would liken to “getting our theology right.” Yes, God does allow, even cause, us to live in ignorance of the truth for a season, but in the end he removes the blinders and leads us all home, each one of us having been made better for the experience.