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| DATE | September 1, 2019 |
| SPEAKER | Paul Clark |
| TITLE | Our Declaration of Freedom |
| SERIES | The Galatians struggled with what following Jesus really means. Some couldn't let go of the old laws, while others abused their new freedom. So, how do we fight the legalism of too many rules without creating a free-for-all without them? Is there a fine line between the two extremes? |

The First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, ratified in 1789, gave Americans the freedom to worship (or not worship) as we choose. While this was a decree of great importance, it cannot compare to the freedoms that we enjoy through our relationship with Christ.

1. Galatians describes the Jews as slaves to all of the Jewish customs. Do you find that you have a custom (habit) that causes you to not pay proper attention to Christ through Prayer or to be in His Word to the extent that you would like? How can you avoid or reduce this distraction?
2. Pastor Paul reminded us that Christ freed us to become “alive in the Spirit, adorned with the Spirit’s fruit.” Have you ever had a situation where you felt that the Holy Spirit helped you to:
 - Respond to someone questioning your faith?
 - Lead a non-believer to Christ?If so, please describe.
3. As a Christ follower, name some specific ways that you sense God-given freedom in your daily experiences. Keep in mind Pastor Paul’s points regarding Christ setting us free from this evil age, being free to live in Jesus’ grace, the freedom from the curse of the law, being free to embrace our new identity in the Lord and our freedom to walk in the Holy Spirit.
4. How does Galatians 5:13-18 illustrate that we are free to choose, by God’s grace, faith in Christ alone. What are some practical ways we can yield to the power of the Holy Spirit in order to share our faith, love the Lord, serve others and become the person Jesus created us to be?
5. As Pastor Paul advised, growth in the fruit of the Spirit is gradual and is sometimes hard to see in the present but is more visible when looking ‘in our rearview mirror.’ Think about your past and mention some of the ways you have grown in Christ. Are you still applying what you learned in your life today?
6. John Stott said that if we truly understand Jesus and what He has done for us then we will want to live for Him. How can you live more for Christ and less for yourself?

Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for your strength and power. We thank you for all that you do for us. We know that you sent your son, Jesus, to die on the cross so that our sins may be forgiven. While Christ gave us freedom *from* sin, he did not give us freedom *to* sin. Please help us to avoid abusing this freedom. We ask that you work in our hearts and allow us to become the person that You have called us to be. In Jesus’ Heavenly Name we pray, Amen.