

This Month's D-Group Focus: Freedom in Christ

Clarifying the gospel was Paul's main objective in writing to the Galatians. Knowing the tenets of the gospel is important, but we must also instruct our hearts to know, believe, and live in response to the gospel. Discipleship Group weeks give opportunities for everyone in the group to grow in some area and to some degree of belief and respond to the gospel from their own starting point. Every D-Group is meant to be an opportunity for us to clarify the gospel.

Everyone in your group arrives with a different level of faith and spiritual maturity. Sometimes the most spiritually mature or biblically literate person in your group may also be the most immature person in one specific area. We are to ask one another challenging questions, listen, and respond with gospel hope because of our love for each other.

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore,
and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”
(Galatians 5:1 ESV)

God has given us freedom in Christ so that we can live free from sin and for God's glory. Yet we are prone to go back to our old patterns of slavery to sin and self-justification. Using the following three questions, we will evaluate how the gospel frees us to live for Christ and how we are prone to respond in non-gospel ways.

1. **What am I experiencing?** (emotions, events, and relationships)
2. **Why am I experiencing this?** (circumstances, empathy, and sin)
3. **How should I respond?** (repentance and reconciliation)

1) What am I experiencing? (emotions, events, and relationships)

A. Do you react to your successes and failures in a gospel way or in a way based on works-righteousness?

B. In what situations do you find it hard to love others?

2) Why am I experiencing this? (circumstances, empathy, and sin)

A. Think of a particular sin you are struggling with. Why do you want to sin in this way? How does your gospel freedom undermine that motivation to sin?

B. Does God's love for you affect the way you love the people with whom you have the most intimate relationships? What about people you dislike? Your friends? Neighbors? Strangers?

3) How should I respond? (repentance and reconciliation)

A. Where are you inclined to indulge yourself in the name of your freedom in Christ?

B. Is there a relationship in which you have not modeled God's love and of which you need to repent?

D-Group **Guide**