



I have the right to surrender to Christ. I have the freedom to become a slave of Christ. I have the liberty to become dependent on Him. And living out of a cross-shaped story, I can choose to give up and give in for the good of the body and for the joy of love.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker:

(1) What do you love most about "freedom"?

(2) For those who raised teenagers: does "freedom" ever backfire?

PAUL LOVES FREEDOM. Read Galatians 2:4; 5:1; 1 Cor 10:29; 2 Cor 3:17. Discuss why "freedom" or "liberty" are important to the Christian faith. Christianity is not a "list of no's" (Col 2:16-23) but is God's ultimate "yes" (2 Cor 1:17-20).

YET PAUL SAYS WE ARE SERVANTS & SLAVES. Read Rom 1:1; 6:18-22; 1 Cor 9:19; Gal 1:10; 5:13; 1 Pet 2:16. Notice how the same Paul who loves freedom calls us slaves of God and encourages us to be servants to one another. How do you make sense of being "free slaves"?

FREEDOM FROM VS. FREEDOM FOR. Read 2 Peter:18-19; Rom 6:18-22. Everyone is a slave to someone or something. The real freedom is choosing who or what will be your master. We were saved *from* sin (Rom 5:7; 8:2), but *for* service.

EATING MEAT OFFERED TO IDOLS: THREE PRINCIPLES.

1. There is one God and meat offered to idols is just meat (1 Cor 8:4). Why does truth matter?
2. You are free to know and act on your freedom in Christ (1 Cor 9:1-12). Why does freedom matter?
3. Your brother matters more than your rights (1 Cor 8:12-13; 10:31-33). Why does voluntary "giving up" your rights matter?

EATING MEAT OFFERED TO IDOLS: 4 SCENARIOS. Paul gives 4 examples: In a temple (outside worship) (8:7-13)? In pagan worship (10:1-22)? At home (10:25-26)? At a pagan friend's house (10:27-28)? His answers are "maybe," "no," "yes," and "maybe." Discuss this. What is a modern example for us?