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Week 2: The Good Fight

Introduction:

Legalism = "Any attitude or belief that human merit can produce, prove or preserve for oneself an acceptable standing before God."
Galatians 2:1-5

Those who enjoy their FREEDOM WALK...

1) Will walk with _____, not deviation (Gal. 2:1-5)

"We did not give in to them for a moment..." (vs. 5)

2) Will walk in the _____ of God, not man (Gal. 2:6-14)

"When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face..." (vs. 11)

3) Do not _____ the law, but are dead to it (Gal. 2:15-21)

"For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God." (vs. 19)

The Big Idea:

Legalism is enemy #1 of our freedom walk. Satan cannot have us, so his next best plan is to seek to make us as joyless, unattractive and miserable as possible using his great weapon of legalism. To overcome this, we remain diligent in grace, care more about God's opinion than man's, and realize that we are dead to the Law.

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Personal Life:

1. In the weekend message, legalism was defined as *"Any attitude or belief that human merit can produce, prove or preserve for oneself an acceptable standing before God."*

Based on that definition, be gut-level honest and discuss to what degree you struggle with legalism...

Ponderings:

2. The Judaizers were imposters, sweeping through the Galatian churches claiming they were speaking under the authority of the Apostles, and tricking the Christians into believing that they had to submit to parts of the Torah in addition to their faith in Christ.

Can you think of any parallel kinds of claims in religious movements today? Have you ever in your spiritual journey been under the control or manipulation of a highly legalistic religious group? If so, will you share about your experience? What caused you to find freedom?

3. As those who have been given this freedom walk in Christ, we now have the power to use loving discernment about our actions in various contexts for the sake of others. What are some specific examples in which you might use your freedom to engage in one context, while using your freedom to abstain in a different context? Discuss...
4. Why is using loving discernment about our behavior in certain contexts radically different than behaving differently due to a fear of man? Explain...
5. What do you think it means to be "dead to the law?" Read Romans 7:1-6 as an additional passage to inform your thoughts...

Promptings:

6. Galatians 2 concludes with the words, *"I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing."* Can you think any circumstance or relationship in your life in which you are "setting aside" (minimizing, circumventing, ignoring) the grace of God? What step(s) can you take to change this?