

TRUE FREEDOM

CENTRAL TRUTH

Paul shows his readers that freedom in Christ is not a license to do whatever—this is a misunderstanding and an abuse of God’s grace. Instead, believers are free to live as God intended for us to live: enjoying a relationship with Him and loving those around us. **By the Spirit’s power, we can live in the freedom Christ secured for us.**

KEY QUESTION

 **What is the fruit of the Spirit? Why do you think love is listed first?**

The apostle Paul taught that walking by the Spirit produces fruit—Christlike qualities. Love is the characteristic that comes first in the list because it the source from which all the other characteristics flow.¹

KEEP IN MIND

- Many students may have adopted our culture’s definition of freedom—doing whatever we want, whenever we want to do it. As we help them understand biblical freedom, it’s key to emphasize that God is not attempting to kill our joy. Rather, in His presence we find abundant joy, and eternal pleasures are at His right hand (see Ps. 16:11). True life and freedom are found in Him alone.
- The concept of following the Spirit’s lead may feel abstract and confusing for students. Using the **Culture Note** to help you, provide them with practical insights on what it means to walk by the Spirit and live in a way that pleases the Lord.

APPLICATION








- What are some ways we see the fruit of the Spirit within one another? Take time to encourage one another as group members.**

THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: True freedom is found in Christ alone. The Holy Spirit resides within each of us and empowers us to live in a way that pleases Him and reject sin.

FOR THE LEADER: Remind students that Paul isn’t offering us a list of things to do in our own strength. Instead, God is the One who forms Christlike character within us.

7 ARROWS

-  What does this passage say?
-  What does this passage tell us about God?
-  What did this passage mean to its original audience?
-  How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
-  What does this passage tell us about the human heart?
-  How does this passage prompt me to pray?
-  What does this passage demand of me?

¹ Timothy George, *Galatians*, The New American Commentary, vol. 30 (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), Logos Bible Software version, 400.