

GALATIANS

CHOOSING FREEDOM EVERY DAY

Part 1:

Big Idea

Throughout our lives on earth, we are called to become more like Jesus, but we must choose the approach we take to “becoming godly.” The first approach, which we call “Living in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil” focuses on what we do. This is a religious path to godliness. The other approach, which we call “Living in the Tree of Life,” focuses on what Jesus has done. We are motivated by love and desire to simply know Him and be close to Him. The latter is the one that God wants us to choose. He wants to have a relationship with us. When we are in love with God and desire closeness with Him, obeying his commands is something we want to do. Becoming godly no longer seems like a burdensome task; it is our delight. So, to live in the Tree of Life, we must do three things: fall in love with Jesus, refuse to listen to the enemy’s voice of condemnation, and make the daily choice to walk in faith, grace, and humility – trusting God and choosing life.

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.

1John 5:3

Discussion Questions

- Now that you understand the two different trees, discuss which tree you have been living in? What is one thing you can do daily to get in or stay in the Tree of Life?
- Explain how, up to this point, you have approached getting closer to God. Discuss what the Holy Spirit has begun to stir in you regarding your approach?
- Sometimes in our pursuit of God we have a tendency to try to work our way into salvation. What one step can you take this week to focus more on Jesus and less on works?

Prayer Focus

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any areas where you may be approaching Him with a religious mindset. Invite Him into those areas and ask Him to empower you to live a surrendered life, trusting that He loves you. Pray for new thought patterns to emerge as old religious habits pass away, and ask the Lord to bring life to your relationship with Him.

Next Step

Identify the areas in which you have been living in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and surrender those areas to Jesus. Begin to look for Jesus in God’s Word instead of making sure you read a certain number of chapters. Pursue God out of love rather than duty.

Leader Tip

Identify those in your group who have leadership potential. Invite them to join the team at Next Steps, held on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sunday of the month immediately following our 10:30 AM Service.