UNLOCKING FREEDOM: A STUDY OF GALATIANS #13
FREEDOM-FAITH RELATIONSHIPS
GALATIANS 5:25-6:2

NOTE: In working through these notes as a group, be sure to focus most of your time in the "LIVING IT OUT" section below.

GETTING STARTED

Were you more attentive to the Spirit and less preoccupied with the things of the flesh this week? Go around the group and update one another on what you learned from last week's assignment: Keep track for a day of (1) all the things God's Spirit convicts you about and (2) all the things the Spirit leads you to do. How do you your two lists compare with the lists in 5:19-23?

DIGGING IN

Read Galatians 5:25-6:2. How do these verses fit into the overall plan of the book of Galatians? How do these verses flow out of the preceding verses (Galatians 5:16-25)?

On this topic, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Nothing can be more cruel than the leniency which abandons others to their sin. Nothing can be more compassionate than the severe reprimand which calls another Christian in one's community back from the path of sin." Do you think this is true? Why do people often practice the "cruel leniency" of abandoning others to unconfronted problems?

How can you distinguish between pickiness and times when you should confront sin?

How or why does Paul's approach to confronting sin differ from the legalism he's talked about earlier in the book?

What does it mean to "keep watch on yourself" (v 2)? How is this command related to personal humility? Why is it an important part of confrontation?

LIVING IT OUT

How defensive do you tend to get when someone tries to give you feedback that is painful to you? Mark the scale below.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Very Open Moderately Defensive "Who says I'm not perfect?"

Have you ever been confronted in a way that was especially helpful? What was it about the way the person approached you was helpful to you?

When is it hard for you to ask others for help? What do we risk when we share our troubles with others? What benefit do we gain by sharing our troubles with others?

How could this group grow in its bearing spiritual burdens for one another? How could the small group take a step forward in their practice of praying for one another through our "30 Days to Fast and Pray" project?

These sermon notes are produced each week for further study and discussion in our small groups. If you are interested in joining a small group, please contact Leslie Ann Yell at smallgroups@chathamchurch.org or 545-9589. Some of these questions were based on questions in other curriculum. If interested, ask Jeff Lawrence for a list of sources.