

## Parish of Ferndown

Study sheet for week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Who we are in Christ: "We are free" – Galatians 5:1-15

### Welcome (Ice breakers)

- What does "Freedom" mean to us? How easy is it for us to take it all for granted?
- Is everyone in England equally free?
- Should we be putting ourselves out for others, fellow Christians and others, who do not enjoy freedom in their countries abroad?

### Worship

Worship the Lord who set us free for Eternity; praise Him for sending us His Spirit to give us the power to resist being dragged down by Sin and by Others. Give Him Thanks and Praise for our Freedoms.

### Word

- What does Paul mean in verse 1 when he says we are set free for freedom? In what ways do we tend to surrender our freedoms – and why?
- Vv. 2-6. Paul seems to be really against the Law and its requirements of Circumcision. But he was a Jewish Christian. Why was he so against Christians being circumcised? Does he mean that anyone circumcised – even for medical reasons – is doomed to be under the Law?
- Vv. 7-12. Paul also seems very angry at someone. We don't know who it was by name, but what sort of person was it who made Paul so angry?
- What does Paul tell us about Freedom in this passage – look at verses 1 and 13-15. Why does Paul speak so much about Freedom in this passage? In verses 13-15 Paul sets limits to Freedom – why was it right for him to do so, but not the person condemned in verses 7-12?
- In what ways are Freedom and Service linked in verses 13-15? Why is being Free for service not a contradiction – doesn't service mean rules?
- How can we as a group, and as a Church, help each individually to stand firm?

### Ministry time

- Could our prayers be focussed on helping each other in the group and in the Church really enjoy what it is to be free? If you feel brave enough, share with each other something from which you feel the need to be set free.
- Thank God that each of us has been set free – claim the freedom for each by name!
- Thirdly, can you ask the Holy Spirit to remind us over the coming days and weeks to pray and support fellow Christians who are not able to enjoy our freedoms in their countries?
- Continue to pray for Martin to experience new freedom in his Sabbatical.

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