

Going Deeper Questions

God, why do You give us free-will when You know we will fall?

Galatians 5:13-25

June 27, 2010

1. Freedom is a high value to us as Americans (it's in the Declaration of Independence under "liberty"). Why is freedom important to you?
2. Read Galatians 5:1, 13-15. Remember what Jeremy said his professor from seminary said – "Behind every smile is a set of teeth." Evaluate yourself – do you use your freedom that God gave you to do what Galatians 5:13 says? Share how you do that in very practical and tangible ways. How might we spur each other on toward love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:24)?
3. We were also challenged to choose to love God (Galatians 5:16). Do you think God forces Himself into our lives? Read John 6:44, Philippians 2:12-13, Ephesians 2:1-5. How is it that we have a free will in light of these passages?
4. Remember the three ways God "woos us" to love Him (cf. Galatians 5:16-23)? Which one of the three hits the closest to home for you (i.e., which one draws you in the most); and why?
5. Here is a challenging question: first, read Job 1:9-21. There are three players in this scenario that all seem to be acting freely against Job and his family (the Lord, Satan, and the Chaldeans). How may we attribute this same work to God, to Satan, and to Chaldeans, without either excusing Satan, or the Chaldeans as associated with God, or making God the author of evil? Think about each of their desires, or the purpose they have in acting freely.
6. In Galatians 5:24-25 its about our identity with Christ. When you go through your day, how often do you think about Christ and being identified with Him?
7. DO you believe that God, in every way, spurs believers on to embrace his grace? When God by his Word teaches us concerning his will, he desires for us to move away from our misery and prompts us to call upon his Spirit to direct us into the right path. What does Hebrews 6:11-12 tell us about why that doesn't always happen? How are you doing at being aroused by his promises and his sweetness to actually hear and heed his voice?