

# Christian Freedom: Branded But Not Bound

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Galatians 6:11.

B. Paul usually only signed his own letters, but he wrote all of Galatians. (2 Thessalonians 3:17)

C. He was so concerned about the problem of legalism that he wrote the letter himself.

D. We do not want to fall prey to legalism.

E. There are four questions we can ask to evaluate if our ministries are grace oriented instead of legalistic.

## II Is our ministry motivated by the glory of God? (Matthew 6)

A. Motives are important because God sees the heart, and the heart determines the quality of the ministry. (Acts 1)

B. The motive of the legalists was the praise of men.

C. There is a ministry of fleshly constraint for the glory of men. (2 Corinthians 10)

D. Our ministry must be motivated by the glory of the cross.

1. Christ took what was rejected by men and put glory in it.

2. If any man gets the glory then grace is not at play.

## III. Is our ministry administered by the Spirit of God?

A. We do not look at people from an earthly point of view.

B. Jesus ministered to the common people. The apostles were not powerful or impressive.

C. Something administered by the Holy Spirit is measured by the walk. There is mercy and peace in the gracious church.

## IV. Is our ministry marked by the suffering of God? Paul was willing to lay his reputation down for Christ. (Philippians 3)

## V. Is our ministry magnified by the grace of God?

A. A ministry that does not magnify the grace of God does not deserve our support.

B. Ministry costs something.

C. People should go away praising God for his grace.

## **Application questions;**

1. How do we evaluate a ministry when it is impossible to know the heart?

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2. How does a cross centered ministry demonstrate grace?

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3. How does suffering demonstrate grace? How should Christians respond differently to pain as a result?

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