

## Chat with children

- *(Image: ropes/knot)*
- How good are the kids at getting out of knots...
- Now that you are free, can you fly?  
- clearly not!!
- We are freed in Christ, and freed to be what we are made to be - not anything else!

## Freed from what?

- *(Image: barbed wire)*
- Freed from Law as the route to relationship with God, from Law as doorkeeper to pleasing God
  - circumcision as the **additional requirement** the Judaisers were requiring of the Galatian Christians..
  - but adding "circumcision" or whatever implies the Cross is not enough, **and you will give God a bit of a helping hand...!**
  - rules of a past generation are pretty obvious... at the time of the Reformation, it included things like selling indulgences
  - for my parents' generation, in a lot of places it could have included not drinking, going to the cinema, smoking... and perhaps wearing a hat to church if you were a woman?
- Often these things aren't in themselves bad rules, but become slave-masters if we feel we **have** to obey them to be acceptable to God
  - have faith in Christ **and** don't drink...
  - have faith in Christ **and** wear a hat...
- Shopkeeper doing some repair for you free... Timpsons... insisting on paying... insulting the offer

## Freed by what?

- *(Image: three crosses)*
- Cross - that's the point of vs.11,12
  - the cross was offensive
  - shameful form of execution
  - Jews believed anyone crucified was cursed
- How could this be the centre point of faith?
  - this was offensive, and prompted persecution
  - yet Paul does not back down - for it was only at the Cross that freedom was won
- This is why Paul gets so upset - his language is pretty strong in v.12!!
  - because they are in danger of saying the Cross is not enough to save them
  - and so not putting their whole trust in what Jesus has done
  - and so trying to win their own salvation - an impossibility!

## Freed to what?

- *(Image: cartwheel)*
- Freedom to **be who we are made to be**, not freedom to **do what we want to do**
- And not to indulge sinful nature
  - still being free to **"obey the truth"** (v.7)
- *(Will explore more next week...)*

## Balancing Act

- *(Image: person balancing on train track)*
- So we are left with the challenge to live in balance
  - not, on the one hand, being drawn into believing or acting as if we can only please God if we keep certain rules...
  - but not, on the other hand, being drawn into believing or acting as if we can then do what we like, that it won't make any difference to God
- **Free to serve... free to love... not free to be selfish**