

# Freedom in Christ

## Five Relational Mindsets

Galatians 5:1

### Part 1 & 2

July 11, 2010

A “mindset” reflects your **understanding** of God and how that **works** itself out in everyday living.

#### MINDSET #1: Life **over** God

1. Epitomized by **atheism, nominalism, or pragmatism**
2. Biblical examples: Tower of Babel (Gen. 11); King Saul (I Samuel 28)

#### MINDSET #2: Life **under** God

1. **Fear** driven bordering on **superstition**
2. **Legalistic**, dogmatic and always worried about God’s judgment
3. If you follow the rules you will be blessed. If you don’t you will be cursed. It reduces God to a predictable, mechanical and **controllable** Entity.
4. Biblical examples: Disciples—who sinned that this man was born blind? (Mark 9:1-3); Job’s friends—bad things only happen to bad people (cf. Job 8:4; 11:14)

#### MINDSET #3: Life **from** God

1. When this is our primary mindset, it leads to Christian **consumerism**.

2. I don’t primarily exist to serve God rather He exists to serve **me**. God is useful. I am not primarily interested in God Himself but rather in what He can do for me.
3. God is a **means** to an **end**.
4. Biblical examples: Simon the Magician (Acts 8); the crowds wanting Jesus to feed them more bread (John 6:26, 66)

#### MINDSET #4: Life **for** God

1. **Missionalism**. The primary mindset is service for God. The value of one’s life is determined by the achievement of some grand objective.
2. Key words are: **should, ought, and duty**...more than “passion” and “want to.”
3. Jesus wants disciples who want Him. Not those who think they “should.”
4. Biblical examples: The older prodigal brother (Luke 15:29)

#### MINDSET #5: Life **with** God

1. This is the overwhelming mindset of the Gospels and the New Testament.
2. The greatest commandment says: “Love the Lord your God...” (Matt. 22:37)
3. Why throw off sin? Because it gets in the way of **fellowship** with Christ (Heb. 12:1-2)
4. Biblical examples: Jesus (Mark 3:14); Paul (Phil. 3:8; Eph. 1:16-17)



Dr. Larry G. Shelton • • • • • Contemporary Service

A copy of today’s sermon can be purchased at the Information Center and is also posted on our web site, [paradisecma.org](http://paradisecma.org).

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*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.*

Galatians 5:1 (KJV)