

"Freedom, Not Flesh" Galatians 5:13-26

We are now free from the Law and the sin it elicits through Jesus Christ, our Emancipator. However, this is not a freedom to follow the lusts of the flesh, but a freedom to be and to become, to speak and to act, to feel and to fulfill all that God has created us for in Christ Jesus. This freedom can be summed up in a word - love.

Sin sounds like freedom, but it enslaves us.

Freedom is not getting to do anything we want to do. Freedom is knowing the best thing to do; doing that best thing; finding joy in it.

Freedom is THE great theme of the last section of Galatians.

Called to freedom – 5:1, 13-14

A. Free from death (sin's penalty) – 1 Cor 15:55-57

B. Free from law

No provision of Spirit

NOW, Law represents self-effort, apart from Spirit

Romans 7:1-4; fruit for God, not fruit for self

C. Free from the power of sin in the Law – Rom 7:7-8, 11

D. Free to love (not just freedom from but freedom to) – 5:14-15

5:15 – flesh in Galatia was conflict; solution? Not the Law

"the whole law" – the essence of the Law; Lev. 19:18b

Jesus – Mt. 22:34-40

Rom. 13:8-10

Compare with 10 Commandments

Love for God covers first set

- No other gods
- No idols

- Name in vain
- Sabbath

Love for others covers second set

- Father and mother
- No murder
- No adultery
- No stealing
- No lying
- No coveting

Gal. 6:2 – freedom doesn't mean freedom to sin; free to live for Christ

James 2:8 – “royal law”; Law of the kingdom

Mt. 5:43-48 – love your enemies

What is love?

Ex – Good Samaritan; Luke 10:25-37

Do you demand anything in return?

Neighbor = one who is near

Not “who is my neighbor” but “to whom can I be a neighbor?”

Eph. 5:25

1 Cor. 13:1-7

E. Freedom = “Good slavery”

Slave of Christ – 1:10; 6:2; My yoke is easy

Slave of others – 2 Cor 4:5

Ability and desire to do what is good. To act, or think or speak or feel without a twinge of guilt or regret; to live with confidence and joy.

When we are living in freedom it is obvious – Gal. 5:22-23

“Fruit” = real marks of maturity. Real marks that Spirit is guiding and controlling

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience
Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness

Gentleness, Self-control

“Against such things there is no law”

True godliness, holiness, maturity is intangible but OBVIOUS

Romans 14:17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

True godliness is a matter of the heart; internal

Mt. 23:23-28; Clean the inside of the bowl

Why is it so hard to become a different person? Gal. 5:15-17

Application

READ Gal. 5:24-25. There is hope. We don't have to be the same people in a year that we are today.

Who are we in Christ? How do we overcome the power of the flesh? Paul's opponents – stiff dose of the Law will cure the flesh. SPIRIT.

1. When I give to others, is it out of love? What do I expect in return?
2. Does my life reflect God's Spirit, or my own will, passions and desires?
3. READ Galatians 5:13-26; Romans 6-8.