



Paul's Epistle to Galatia

Galatians 5:13 – Called Unto Liberty

- *Review: Gal 4:110-12 – Invasion of Legalism*

A. Freedom Declared (5:1)
It was for freedom that Christ set us free.

B. Law Produces Bondage (5:2–6)
If you receive circumcision; Christ will be of no benefit to you.

C. Walk Hindered (5:7–9)
You were running well; who hindered you.

PARENTHESIS: JUDAIZERS WARNED (5:10–12)

C. Walk Restored (5:13–18)
But through love serve one another.

B. Holy Spirit Produces the Fruit of the Spirit (5:19–23)
But I say, walk by the Spirit.

A. Freedom Practiced (5:24–26)
Flesh Crucified - Positional
Live by the Spirit. . .walk by the Spirit. - Conditional



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- ***Galatians 5:13 (NKJV)- For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.***
- ***Galatians 5:13 (ILG) – For ye for freedom were called, brothers; only not the freedom for advantage to the flesh, but through a love serve ye as slaves one another.***
 - What's *For* there for?
 - Isn't what follows in this verse an alternative for the *brethren* from how the Judaizers have promoted legal ways to prove that they have been saved?
 - *Ye* is emphatical to oppose the legalists who were/are misleading you.
 - *have been* or *were called* – aorist passive indicative, but who was doing the calling?
 - *to liberty* or *for freedom* (*eleutheria* - *el-yoo-ther-ee'-ah*)
 - Used 11 times in the NT, 4 of which are in the book of Galatians.



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- Literally translated, the word *liberty* or *freedom* means to do or to omit things having no relationship to salvation.
 - Advantage, opportunity, occasion (*aphormē - af-or-may'*) is a military term related to intention.
- This *liberty* or *freedom* can be directed as an *advantage* or as *an opportunity for the flesh or to serve one another with love*.
 - Strong's – 'That by which endeavor is excited and from which it goes forth; that which gives occasion and supplies matter for an undertaking, the incentive; the resources we avail ourselves of in attempting or performing anything.'
- Notice the difference in how the outcome of this *liberty* is expressed – *advantage for vs. to serve as slaves* (present active imperative).
 - For believers, how should we interpret this *liberty* or *freedom*?
 - I love these words of our Lord and Savior!
 - *John 8:36 - "Therefore if the Son makes you **free**, you shall be **free indeed**."*
 - *Free* from what?
 - Mosaic and any other law system, the source and power of sin in the flesh, and of Satan and his rule in our lives.
 - Which of these is most important to us/you now?



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- Let's set the stage for how to best and apply this *freedom/liberty*.
 - We are called to and positioned as righteous.
 - *2 Cor 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
 - *Rom 8:17 - and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,.....*
 - We carry no consequences before the Lord from our birth and earthy existence in Adam.
 - *Rom 8:1 - There is therefore now **no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.***
 - We are new creations in Christ Jesus.
 - *2 Cor 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new** creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become **new**.*
 - *Rom 6:3 - Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that **just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.***
 - *Phil 1:21 - **For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.***
 - *Gal 5:1 - **Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.***



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- Our position in Christ and our walk is faith-based and dependent on and conditioned by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - *Rom 8:2 - For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*
 - *Gal 5:16 - I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*
- *serve as slaves (doulos) one another with a love (agape)*
 - Notice the article 'a' before *love* in the ILG and that this is a service of bondage.
 - *1 Cor 9:19 - For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;*
 - How are we all doing in this *service of love in bondage for one another?*
 - Let's compare the *love* of the old nature vs. that of the Holy Spirit.
 - Wuest - The Greek word for *love* here is *agape*, which refers, not to human affection but to divine love, the love produced in the heart of the yielded believer by the Holy Spirit, and the love with which that believer should love his fellow-believers. This love is a love whose chief essence is self-sacrifice for the benefit of the one who is loved. Such a love means death to self, and that means defeat for sin, since the essence of sin is self-will and self-gratification for the benefit of the one who is loved. Such a love means death



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- Constable – ‘Under gracethe Mosaic Law has *revelatory* value (2 Tim. 3:16-17) even though it does not have *regulatory* value, controlling our behavior.

–Lev 19:18 - *You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, **but you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the LORD.*

–2 Tim 3: 16,17 - *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, **that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

– In summary:

- Darby – ‘The Christian, truly free from the yoke of sin, as well as from its condemnation (for Christ risen is his life as well as his righteousness, and the Spirit is the power and guide of his walk towards glory, and according to Christ), instead of serving his lusts, seeks to serve others, as free to do it in love. Thus, the law itself is fulfilled, without our being under its yoke: for the whole practical law is summed up in this word: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."