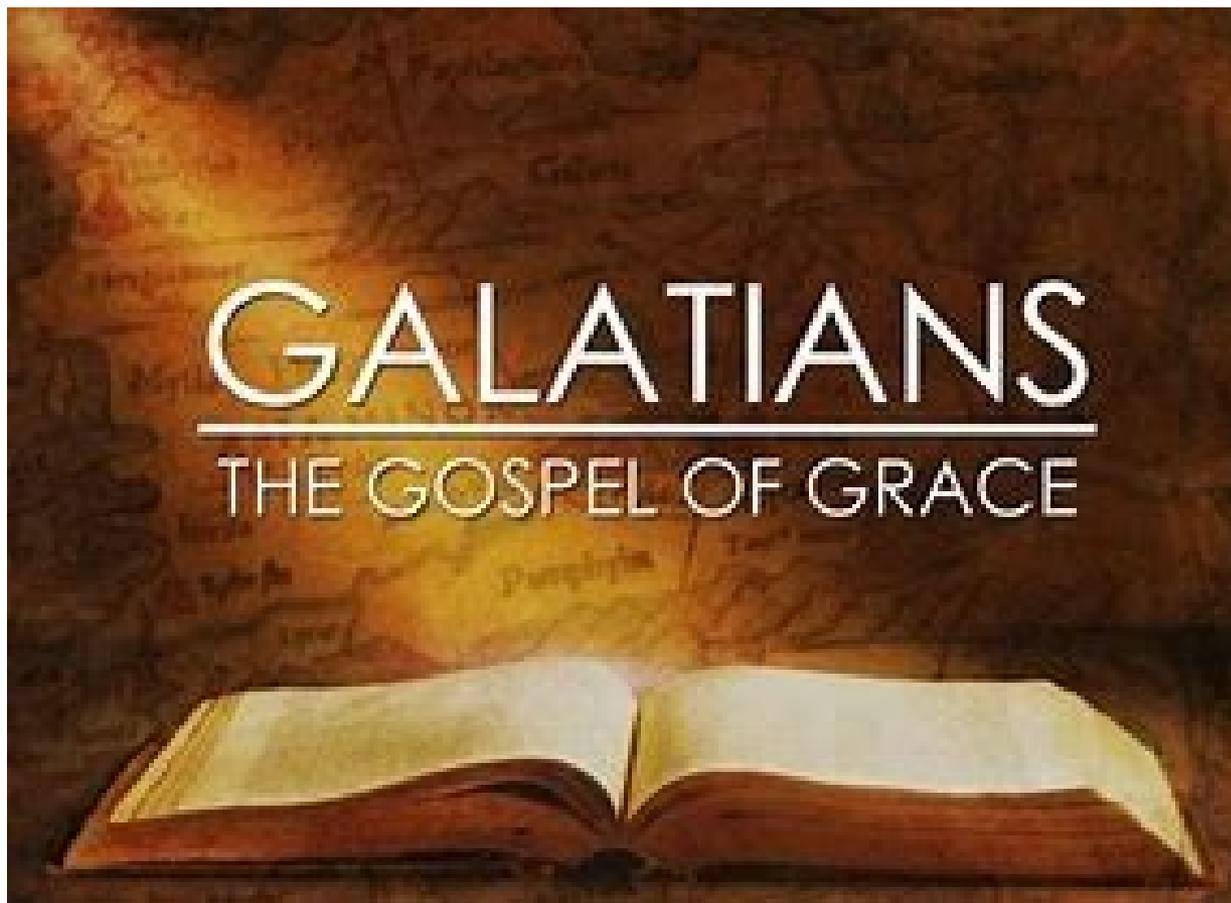




Gal 5:14-15 Freedom Is Loving Your Neighbor



Outline*



The Dynamic of the Christian Life

5:13-26

1. An Outline of Freedom 5:13-15

a. The Possession of Freedom
5:13a

b. Freedom Its Abuse 5:13b

c. Freedom Its Dynamic 5:13c

d. Freedom Expression 5:14-15

Freedom's True Expression
5:14

Freedom's Warning 5:15

2. An Outline of Spirituality 5:16

review of
verse 13
our freedom
in Christ

* adapted from McCalley²

¹³ For **you** were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.



were called – *kaleō* – to call or invite someone;

- It is used of God's call or invite to participate in all of the blessings and riches of Christ (an event, passive voice)
- God has done this calling out of His abundant grace!
- All believers are the recipient of this gracious calling

We were liberated from one thing to another!*

from: our sin nature and the Law

to: Christ's liberty – we share in the very same liberty that is Christ's and we have the glorious liberty to glorify Him

13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.



opportunity - *aphormē* - "a starting point," was used to denote "a base of operations in war"

•do not turn your liberty into **a base of operations** for the evil nature (Wuest)

•Rom 7:8a But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind

•Paul realizes that those who possess freedom can abuse it*

•But our freedom in Christ can never be lost!

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.



but through love keep on constantly serving one another

Wuest

serve - *douleuō* - to serve as a *doulos* - *doulos* is a slave by birth (born into slavery) - present tense

- You **serve as slaves** to **one another** [fellow believers]
- Eph 5:21 **be subject to** one another in the fear of Christ
- lit: abide under or line up under
- Love is expressed in the desire for the well being of another*
- Freedom is desiring the well being of another*

* McCalley

Key points from verse 13*



The Christian is free in order that he may serve other Christians!

True liberty expresses itself in love of one another.

Christ is the perfect example of this:

He was totally free from the domination of sin or the flesh; i.e.

- He knew maximum liberty.
- Yet He took to Himself the mentality of a servant (*doulos*).

And because He loved the Church, He gave Himself for it.

Where the *agape* love is the motivating power, *doulos* service is without constraint, hence not an irksome burden.

Outline*



The Dynamic of the Christian Life 5:13-26

1. An Outline of Freedom 5:13-15

a. The Possession of Freedom
5:13a

b. Freedom Its Abuse 5:13b

c. Freedom Its Dynamic 5:13c

d. Freedom Expression 5:14-15

Freedom's True Expression
5:14

Freedom's Warning 5:15

Today's Verses



¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.



¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

for the entire Law has been summed up in one word — Inter.

for - *gar* - expressing the reason for what has been before;
“for” in the sense of because

for tells us the reason for the command to “be a slave [servant] to one another by love” [Gal 5:13c]*

the entire Law

•Greek word is *pas* – all, not one part excluded

has been summed up – *pleroo* - to make full," and when used of a task or a course of action, "to fully perform"

•since this is perfect tense this is a permanent state

* Hal Molloy

¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." _



in the statement - which follows:

• In keeping the following statement one is complying with the whole law and its demands. Wuest

you shall love your neighbor as yourself

- This is present tense so we are to be continually loving our neighbor.
- Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her.
- These can only be kept as Christ lives his life through us.
- All of the law is fulfilled where one precept is observed, namely love. McCalley



Rom 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law.

⁹ For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of *the* law.

Love is the sum and substance of the Mosaic Law.*

¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."



Two more thoughts:

Who is your neighbor?*

- More than just the people next door
- Neighbor - *lit*: the one near
- Anyone in your immediate sphere or influence

What is the standard for your love under grace?

- John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you ---
- John 15:12 This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.



15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

If – assumed to be true

•But if, as is the case, you are biting and devouring one another Wuest

bite - *daknō* - is used metaphorically of wounding the soul, or rendering with reproaches.

devour - *katesthiō* - to eat, swallow, devour; of persons meaning to consume or destroy one another

•The words bite (*dakno*) and devour (*katesthio*), were used commonly in classical Greek in connection with wild animals in deadly struggle. Wuest

one another – brothers in Christ

•Apparently the believers who advocated grace and the believers who advocated law bitterly opposed one another in the Galatian churches. Constable

15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.



Paul will now give a warning about their conduct!

beware lest by one another you are destroyed (Interlinear)

beware - *blepō* - sometimes used by way of warning
"to take heed" or "look out"

consumed – *lit*: swallowing down a person; is said of the
destruction of persons (i.e. their well being)

- Paul cautioned both sides to love one another or they would consume each other. That would not be a good example of Christian love.*
- This is the only sin Paul warned the Galatians to avoid.*

* Constable

15 But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.



The Galatians were trying to live the Christian life under the Law:

The Law is a killing, destroying power; not because the Law is bad, but because our sin nature is.*

- The Law exposes and inflames the sin nature
- The Law was not given to the new man in Christ
- The Law was given to the old man to reveal his sinfulness
- The Law could never justify anyone
- The Law could never sanctify anyone

Final Thoughts



The only way anyone can manifest love toward others* is when Christ is the object of the heart and we walk in God's grace and not under law:

- Under grace Christ's life is manifested and characterized by the fruit of the Spirit.
- Under Law self is manifested and characterized by biting, devouring and consuming.

* adapted from Hal Molloy