

Galatians 5: 13-15 Keeping Your Freedom In Christ takes Constant Vigilance

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Intro: Galatians 5:1 “ It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”

Freedom in this new life in Christ has to be lived carefully, thoughtfully and with great focus, or it can be perverted to a selfish end.

Text: Galatians 5:13-15 (and 5: 26)

Point: Don't treat this freedom as an opening for carnal self-indulgence, but use it for loving service toward others.

V. 13 This freedom eliminates this, “I just want what is in it for me?” attitude.

Ex. Marriage counseling. ‘Reality of marriage 1.’ “They appreciate our kindness, but don't necessarily repay us with kindness.”

We appreciate God's kindness through grace, and thank Him for it, but why would we not now want to give as He gives?

You now have the power to do right things because of this new freedom in Christ, because the Holy Spirit lives in you. The power to do good and not live selfishly, like you did before you met Christ. That old life left you in bondage, and helped no one around you! This freedom in Christ is the power to live as you were intended to. Your true happiness is found in this new life. You no longer feel you are losing something as you serve others. Do not turn this freedom inward. True freedom in Christ implies thinking and doing like the One who set you free! And He is very unselfish with His freedom. He did not have to do what He did!

II Corinthians 8:9 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.”

V.14 Now in Christ, there is such a flow of love in serving. Legalism, outward conformity to a code, and/or rituals cannot ever really flow. There is that mechanical feel to it that is contrary to real love. In legalism it feels like we are always **failing**, or it builds **pride** in a person who looks “relatively righteous” in comparison to others. The whole point of the training wheels of the Law system is meant to lead us to this point: to a focused love onto one wonderful person; Christ Jesus.

(Back to V. 13)

Question: What does it mean? **“Opportunity for the flesh?”**

It would have something to do with the misuse of their freedom. Somehow they felt that if they were free in Christ, then they could do anything that came to mind, without regard for others well-being.

V.15 also (5:26) A no-win situation. Somebody had freedom , but they were not loving with that freedom. The “serve one another” part hit the skids! **This verse and 5:26** shows what happens when freedom in Christ is not understood.

Ex. Like celebrating the Lord’s supper with a meal and everybody tramples each other to get ahead in the food line. The whole event is about the unselfishness of Jesus to die for us; to set us free.

I Corinthians 11: 27-34 “wait for one another”

Ex. Gladiator, Braveheart, Matrix- (Morpheus had to teach this to Neo.) They were never satisfied with their own freedom, but had a burning desire to set others free.

Ex. Doctrine of the weaker brother. Using your freedom that comes from knowing God’s word to belittle a brother who has not yet been convinced. **I Corinthians 8: 1-13. I Corinthians 10: 23-24.**