

Sunday, September 3, 2023—Galatians 5:13 Liberty Leads To Love

### **Galatians 5:13**

- **For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.**
- Believers have been called to a position of liberty. This harkens back to verse 1 where Paul told them to “stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free”. We stand and walk in freedom which is directly contrasted to the bondage of the Law.
- The liberty we possess as a result of our standing in grace should not be used as an excuse to sin.
  - Romans 5
  - Romans 6:12-14
- II Corinthians 3:3, 6—the letter of the Law results in bondage and death, whereas, the Spirit of the Lord produces life.
- We have been set free not to serve our own selfish desires but, rather, to serve each other. Our service is to be continuous or ongoing and motivated by love.
- “The first prerequisite is freedom from the Law and sin (Romans 7:7-8). The second prerequisite is to be imbued with love, the first fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). As a result of these two, there is to be a mutual serving, helping, and caring for one another in the Body of Christ.

### **By Love Serve One Another**

- Galatians 5:13—is where we encounter Paul’s next one-another statement, “by love serve one another.”
- Before we get into the specific content of Paul’s one-anothering statement in verse 13, we need to make sure that we understand the context in which this verse appears.
  - Galatians 1:6-9—Paul preached the grace of Christ in Galatia. He did not preach the law of Moses or Israel’s program from time past. Paul preached a gospel message that he had received by the revelation of Jesus Christ himself. The Galatians had allowed themselves to be removed from the grace of Christ unto another so-called gospel.
    - Galatians 1:11-12
  - Galatians 2:16, 21
  - Galatians 3:1-5—the Galatians had allowed themselves to be bewitched by the law. They had willfully placed themselves back under its dominion and authority.

- Romans 6:14
- Galatians 4:9, 20—Paul calls the law “weak and beggarly” and then tells the Galatians that he stands in doubt of them. Paul never said this to the Corinthians.
- Galatians 5:1-4—entangling themselves with the yoke of bondage caused the Galatians to fall from grace, according to the Apostle Paul. They had replaced the operating system of grace with one of law keeping and legalism.
- Galatians 5:13—Paul address one of the common objections of legalistic people, “tell people they are under grace and they will use it as a license to sin.” Our liberty under grace has not been given to us for the purposes of indulging the flesh.
  - Galatians 5:16-21—liberty was not given to believers for us to engaged in the willful indulgence of the flesh.
  - Galatians 6:8
- Galatians 5:13—note the contrast “but” that sets the last phrase of verse 13 apart from the previous one. Our liberty was not given to us serve ourselves but to serve others. Instead of being consumed with the legality or permissiveness of a given action under grace we are free to consider how our actions affect and impact others.
- *By love*—is the operative force in verse. We serve each by “by love.” Our natural programing however is to serve ourselves and our own interests. How can we learn to serve others by love?
  - I Thessalonians 4:9-10—if we allow him to God almighty will teach us how to love one another.
    - Ephesians 2:4
    - Romans 5:5-8
    - II Corinthians 5:14
      - Philippians 2:5-8—what we are really taking about here once again is the mind of Christ. Love that values and esteems others a greater than oneself.
  - I Corinthians 14:1—“charity” is the more excellent way from I Cor. 12:31. Believers are to be following after “charity” in our relationship with each other.