

Study: Galatians

Text: Galatians 5:13-15

“LIVING IN LIBERTY, NOT LICENSE” (Part 2)

Sanctification is the inward work of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life to spiritually grow him and change him into the image of Christ.

Therefore our sanctification is the process of becoming like Christ.

I. Living in Liberty, not *Legalism* (5:1-12)

II. Living in Liberty, not *License* (v. 13-15)

Q: Who do you serve? The answer to this question defines your Christian liberty.

We have been called to a life of service in worship to God.

Illustration: God’s commandment regarding a slave (Exodus 21)

John 14:15 If ye love **Me**, keep **My** commandments.

Christian living that is ruled by law is *legalism*. Christian living that is ruled by lust is *license*. Christian living that is ruled by love is *liberty*.

Christian liberty, when rightly implemented, is

- † a _____ of self
- † a _____ to God
- † a _____ to serve others

“WE SERVE GOD IN HOW WE SERVE OTHERS” (DIAGRAM)

A. The _____ Use of Christian Liberty—Serving *Self* (v. 13b)

1. Liberty ruled by *lust*—_____ limitations

† NOT Liberty to _____ the flesh

It is a matter of *lust* vs. *love*—*lust* appeals to our flesh in **selfishness** while *love* appeals to service in **selflessness**.

B. The _____ Use of Christian Liberty—Serving *Others* (v. 13c-14)

† Liberty ruled by *love*—_____ limitations

† NOT Liberty to _____ the law

Cf. Matthew 22:37-40

This “whole-hearted devotion for God” is developed in our commitment to Christlikeness, along with our growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ, followed by a maturing self-control, endurance and Godliness. The natural outflow of these virtues (2Pe 1:5-6) will be displayed in our brotherly kindness and love (2Pe 1:7) as we “*love thy neighbor as thyself*.”

B. The *Abuse* of Christian Liberty—Serving *Self* (v. 15)

Q: How do we abuse our Christian liberty?

† Liberty ruled by *lording*—Love *abused*

† NOT Liberty to _____ the others

What we see here in v. 15 is Christian liberty that is abused by abusing love in the form of _____ love.

Cf. Galatians 5:26; 1 Corinthians 3:3

Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is **Wisdom**.

Shorty Shank – *Biblical love* is a selfless commitment to another’s highest good.

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned [*natural family love*] one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

John 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are **My** disciples, if ye have love one to another.

Cf. Galatians 5:19-21

Q: “How do we do this?” (answer: Galatians 5:16)

If Christian living that is ruled by our lusting flesh is license, then in order to refuse to “*fulfill the lust of the flesh*” we must “*walk in the Spirit*” of God being led or controlled by His Spirit.

What is my next step? For next week (Galatians 5:16-21)

(*Put off*) What must I put off that is both hinder my walk with Christ or someone else’s?

(*Renew your mind*) What qualities or Words of Christ must I meditate upon?

(*Put on*) What qualities of Christ must I seek to have as a characteristic of my life?

What Is My Next Step?

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25
Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

Date:_____ Text:_____ Speaker:_____

1. What did God show **me** that **I** must confess and forsake because it does not reflect Christ and hurts **my** relationship with Him and others? (***Put OFF***)

2. What did God show **me** about Himself in this text? (***Renew***)
 - a. What is He like?
 - b. What does He like?
 - c. What does He dislike?

3. What does God say to me in this text? (***Renew***)
 - a. What command to obey?
 - b. What promise to claim?
 - c. What principle to apply (*If I do _____, then God will do _____*)?
 - d. What example to follow?

4. What verse(s) should **I** memorize and meditate upon through-out this week to help make **my** change lasting? (***Renew***)

5. In light of what I have heard from God,... (***Put ON***)
 - a. What character quality of Jesus must **I** demonstrate *with God's help* this week?
 - b. In what situations will **I** most likely be tempted not to respond in a Christ-like way?
 - c. How can **I** get ready for those situations? (*If I don't have a plan for change, it probably won't happen.*)

OUR MISSION: Passionately Serve God & Compassionately Serve Others—
ALL to the Glory of GOD

Sermon Notes

Hearing — Giving *attention* to God's Word with the intent to obey it — James 1:21-25
Doing — Making *application* of God's Word to be more like Christ — Eph. 4:22-24

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