

**Freedom from Law-works
Is Not Freedom to Sin**

Galatians 5:13a (NASB)
For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into **an opportunity for the flesh**

- > **%Called+** in this context is the internal call
- > **%Opportunity+** in the Greek can be translated **%base of operations+**
- > **Flesh** has a large range of meanings, but here means **%be arena of self-will and self-indulgence+**

2

Christian Love Serves Others

Galatians 5:13b (NASB)
but through love **serve** one another.

- > **%Serve+** is an imperative in the Greek
- > We are called out of sin and darkness, through the gospel, not to serve the flesh, but to serve the Lord **%flock**

3

**Love Defined Biblically
Is the Essence of the Law**

Galatians 5:14 (NASB)
For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, **%ou shall love your neighbor as yourself.+**

- > This is cited from Leviticus 19:18b
- > Jesus cites this in Matthew 22:39
- > Paul repeats this truth in Romans 13:8

4

Strife Is a Sign of the Flesh in Operation

Galatians 5:15 (NASB)

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

- %Bite+is used in the LXX for the bite of the serpent (Genesis 49:17; Numbers 21:6; Deuteronomy 8:15)
- %Take care+is literally %see+and is in the imperative in the Greek
- %Devour+is what the Pharisees did to widowsq houses

5

Implications and Applications

- The gospel calls us to freedom
- The flesh sets up a base of operations, fueled by law-works, to subvert Christian love
- To love neighbor is to live in accord with the gospel
- Those who live by the flesh bite and devour like serpents

6

Come to Christ and Live in Gospel Freedom

Matthew 11:28-30 (NASB)

%Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.+

- Freedom includes permanent Sabbath rest
- Freedom includes freedom from guilt, condemnation and religious leaders who operate to promote these

7

The Flesh Has a Base of Operations

Romans 7:8, 11 (HCSB)

And sin, **seizing an opportunity** through the commandment, produced in me coveting of every kind. For apart from the law sin is dead. . . . For sin, **seizing an opportunity** through the commandment, deceived me, and through it killed me.

- > Trusting law-works puts one in a horrible, vulnerable position vis-à-vis this base of operations
- > Christian love is destroyed when we succumb to the flesh

8

To Love Neighbor
Is an Expression of the Gospel

1John 4:7-9 (NASB)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that **God has sent His only begotten Son** into the world so that we might live through Him.

9

Beware the Serpent's Bite

Matthew 23:33, 34 (NASB)

You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell? Therefore, behold, I am sending you prophets and wise men and scribes; some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues, and persecute from city to city, +

1Peter 5:8 (NASB)

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, **the devil**, prowls around like a roaring lion, **seeking someone to devour**.

10
