

This morning we will begin to look at **v.13–26** in which Paul explains how we can walk in freedom from our flesh>>

These verses will be divided into four sections>>

[1] **v.13-15**; [2] **v.16-18**; [3] **v.19-24**; [4] **v. 25-26**

Section [1]>>**v.13-15** *How our freedom fulfills the Law*>>

This morning, we will look at **v.13** only>>

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.

Paul begins by giving an instruction to one particular group of people>>

<<those whom God has called *...to freedom...*>>

Only those who *...were called to freedom...* have the ability to obey this command>>

The rest of humanity is not free to obey>>

Why not>>

<<they do not have the will to obey>>

Only God's people can obey>>

<<because God has given them a heart to obey>>

This brings us to the question to man's free will>>

Does everyone have free will>>

<<does everyone have the free will to believe in Jesus>>

The answer is YES if we understand this important Truth>>

All have the free will to do what ever **is in keeping** with our nature>>

<<we **cannot** do otherwise>>

Let's begin by understanding the interconnection of our nature, heart and will>>

nature refers to our inherent or intrinsic character>>

heart refers to our the beliefs and thoughts of our nature>>

will refers to our the desires of our heart which produce our behavior>>

Now, let's look at how the Bible describes the nature, heart and will of an unsaved person>>

The old nature>>

1. *...dead in trespasses and sin...*>>**Eph. 2:1–2**

2. *...helpless... sinners... enemies of God...*>>**Rom. 5:6, 8, 10**

3. *...darkened in understanding... excluded from the life of God... ignorant...*>>**Eph. 4:18**

The heart of our old nature>>

Gen 8:21 *...the intent of man's heart is evil...*>>

Jer. 17:9 *...the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked...*>>

In **Mark 7:21-23**, Jesus describes our natural heart>>

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, 22 deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. 23 "All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man...>>

In **Luke 6:45**, Jesus makes this distinction>>

The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart...>>

The will of our heart>>

Matt. 7:17 ...a bad tree bears bad fruit...>>

1 Cor 2:14 ...a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised...>>

Rom 3:10-12 **THERE IS NONE** RIGHTEOUS, **NOT EVEN ONE;**
11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, **THERE IS**
NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD; **12 ...THERE IS NONE**
WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE.

2 Tim 2:26 ...[we were] held captive by [Satan] to do his will...>>

In summary, the nature, heart and will of an unsaved person is born and bred in sin>>

Such a person does not have the free will to believe in Jesus>>

<<BECAUSE of his fallen nature, he does not have the heart to believe>>

Then how are the unsaved saved>>

Matt 19:26 *With man this is impossible, but with God all things*

are possible...>>

The Lord give us new heart >>

And this is what the Lord promised to do in **Ez. 36:26**>>

I will give you a NEW heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone...>>

This is what we read in **Acts 16:14**>>

The Lord opened [Lydia's] heart [Ez.36:26] to respond to Paul's message>>

Now let's look at Rom. 10:9-13 with all of this in mind>>

*If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved **10** for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation... [therefore] **13** WHOEVER WILL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED...>>*

God has given him the *free* ... *WILL CALL UPON THE NAME
OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED...*>>

Let's re-ask our question>>

Does everyone have a free will>>

Yes, a person is *free* to do whatever is in his heart>>

Next week we will speak about how the Law is fulfilled>>