

Galatians – Lesson 33

Galatians 5:13-26

March 30, 2025

This morning we continue with **v.13–26** in which Paul explains>>

<<our ability to walk in freedom from the bondage of our flesh>>

v.13-15 Paul explains that the Law is fulfilled as we love one another>>

v.13a *For you were called to freedom, brethren...>>*

They are now, for the 1st time free to choose how they will live>>

Josh 24:15 *...choose you this day whom you will serve...>>*

v.13b *...only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh...>>*

Paul urges them to guard against using their freedom for fleshly purposes>>

In **1 Cor.** Paul is forced to address this issue of Christian freedom [liberty] because some were doing what he warns against in **v.13b**>>

1 Cor 8:9 *...take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak...*
8:13 *if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I will not cause my brother to stumble...*

9:19 *though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more...*
9:23 *I do all things for the sake of the gospel...>>*

v.13c *...but through love serve one another.*

We are now free to love one another>>

But why is loving one another so important>>

v.14 *Because the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."*

Rom 13:8 *...[the one] who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the Law...>>*

Paul reiterates Jesus' explanation in **Mark 12: 29-30** about the greatest commandment>>

Jesus answered, "The foremost [the most important] is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; 30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH. [Deut.6:4-5]' 31 "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. [Lev.19:18]' There is no other commandment greater than these."

In **1 John 4:8** we read the reason love fulfills the Law>>

...because God is LOVE...>>

The try to fulfill the law by the flesh is the work of self love, self aggrandizement>>

Only by the Spirit can we love one another with God's love>>

Such love is the quintessential **proof** of our salvation>>

How will we know if we are living in freedom or by the flesh>>

Matt 7:16 *By their fruit you will recognize them...>>*

We will know by the way we relate to one another>>

v.15 *But if you bite and devour one another be careful that you are not consumed by one another.*

Fleshly behavior tears down rather than builds up>>

<<whereas our freedom is for the used for the ...*building up of one another...*>>**Rom 14:19**

Such fleshly behavior will ruin the testimony of God's love>>

Next week we will begin to look at the spiritual warfare that is being waged in each of us>>