Message Outline



Galatians 5:13-18 NKJV

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

V13 FOR YOU, BRETHREN, HAVE BEEN CALLED TO LIBERTY;

With God, you are and have been sanctified and He will sustain you
Acts 20:32 brethren... who are sanctified.
Acts 26:18 those who are sanctified by faith in Me.
Romans 15:16 the Gentiles... sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God... who are sanctified in Christ Jesus
Hebrews 10:10 we have been sanctified
Jude 1:1 those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ
1 Corinthians 6:11-12 you were washed... sanctified... justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. [so] 12 All things are lawful for me

The freedom given to the believer is not maintained by what you do do , nor what you don't do. It is a gift from God!

ONLY DO NOT USE LIBERTY AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FLESH
Paul makes it a point that liberty will then allow fleshly desire to thrive.

Paul is saying you have the potential to do sinful things AND may even be doing these things as a Christian.

But Paul gives us the simple application: instead, ***through love serve one another.***

And if you want to begin to WALK - which you need to understand is the starting point from STOP to RUN, then YES, we need to start serving each other in super simple ways.

14 FOR ALL THE LAW IS FULFILLED IN ONE WORD, EVEN IN THIS: "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."
Up until this point, Paul is saying we live by grace through faith and we are not under the law. But Paul also teaches us the TRUTH that loving each other is fulfillment of the law.

QUESTION: **Why is it that we don't need to follow the law, yet we should fulfill it?**

15 BUT IF YOU BITE AND DEVOUR ONE ANOTHER, BEWARE LEST YOU BE CONSUMED BY ONE ANOTHER!
We want to fulfill the law as much as we can, because there are consequences! Spiritual consequences that begin with this lifetime and will last forever.

But notice Paul does not say, you will lose your salvation. He knows this cannot happen to those who are truly saved.

The Galatians are confused! They feel they are not holy enough, not really sanctified by the blood alone.

What you feel is a law, you enforce that law on others—and when they don't do it, like the Pharisees you say, "Disqualified!"

This is WHY Paul makes it clear that no believer in Jesus Christ can be separated from HIM for ANY reason.

Becoming critical of others shuts down any feelings of serving them.

Christ himself not only did things out of following the will of God, knowing God's will, but He went to the cross because He loved you. While we were still sinners, without criticism, He went to the cross. He was God! He didn't have to.

That is what we are instructed to do as believers. LOVE PEOPLE AND HELP THEM!

For God so loved the world.. The sinners of the world!

16 I SAY THEN: WALK IN THE SPIRIT, AND YOU SHALL NOT FULFILL THE LUST OF THE FLESH.
Yet, in His love for you Jesus went to the cross, and thereby fulfilling his obedience to God, the Father. He never says "Father, but THEY ARE NOT QUALIFIED!"

It was all about loving God and loving each other.

So walk in love, like when Jesus walked with the cross on His neck.

Walk His way, even though people are a pain in the neck.

17 FOR THE FLESH LUSTS AGAINST THE SPIRIT, AND THE SPIRIT AGAINST THE FLESH; AND THESE ARE CONTRARY TO ONE ANOTHER, SO THAT YOU DO NOT DO THE THINGS THAT YOU WISH.

To struggle is normal—the flesh and the Spirit are opposed to each other!

This world has its own culture, and your Spiritual culture may be awkward and may even clash with it. Even when it might be awkward, stay in the Spiritual culture of your true home.

Acting different from the culture of this world in the Spirit, is okay. It may clash and it may even be offensive, but there's no law against living in the Spirit.

18 BUT IF YOU ARE LED BY THE SPIRIT, YOU ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW.
Jesus Christ is God - Father, Son and Spirit.

You just need to pray and ask, in Jesus' name, OH SPIRIT - COMMAND ME TO WALK IN YOUR WAYS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME!

Faith acknowledges the presence of God.

FAITH ALSO MEANS CRYING OUT TO HIM—ASKING IN FAITH FOR HIM TO LEAD YOU TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE—BECAUSE THE SPIRIT IS GOD!

The Bible says in **Romans 8:26** ...*the Spirit helps us in our weakness.*

BELIEVE HE WILL! THAT IS WHAT FAITH IS!

We must all desire to become Spiritually mature. We must be careful not to build ourselves on LAW that would prevent Spiritual maturity from developing because it will not be reaped by laws placed at every corner of our lives.

God knows we are incapable of maintaining a perfect love at all times in all circumstances no matter what.

1 John 3:16 NKJV
By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

Make Jesus your Lord and savior, and become part of the Spiritual Kingdom, making love your new culture as you walk like Him.

Jesse Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
July 1-2, 2023

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