

## Christian Freedom

### **Galatians 5:11-15**

#### Intro:

- A. The Galatians had a good beginning.
    - 1. They were well down the track.
    - 2. Someone "spooked" them and they turned into another lane and were out of the race.
  - B. Paul believed that God could keep them.
    - 1. The one stirring them up would be punished.
    - 2. They should recognize the insidious power of these perverters of the gospel.
  - C. These people were called to freedom.
    - 1. This did not give them a license to believe whatever they decided was "better doctrine".
    - 2. They did not have freedom from life.
- I. Freedom In Christ Does Not Free One From Persecution or Service.
- A. **Vs. 11 "And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution?"**
    - 1. "Preach" = κηρυσσω = "to be a herald".
    - 2. "Persecution" = διωγμος = "pursuit".
    - 3. "And as for me, my brothers, if I were still advocating circumcision (as some allege!) Why am I still suffering persecution? - Phi
  - B. **"...then is the offence of the cross ceased."**
    - 1. "Offence" = σκανδαλον = "a trap stick", "a stick on which bait is fastened, when struck it springs a trap".
    - 2. "Ceased" = καταργεω = "to make useless", "to void".
    - 3. If Paul preached the validity of circumcision as a part of pleasing God then the Jews would not be offended by his preaching about the cross. The cross would be the instrument of the death of messiah. The Jews should have abandoned the temple the moment the fail was torn from top to bottom. This was Paul's message. Not only did it (the law) not help, it was a hinderance.
  - C. **Vs. 12 Paul's bold statement.**
    - 1. "Cut-off" = αποκοπτω = "to cut off from", "to amputate" Here to castrate.
    - 2. "Trouble" = αναστατω = "to upset", "to trouble, to disturb one's mind".

3. "As for these agitators, they had better go the whole way and make eunuchs of themselves!" - NEB  
II. Freedom In Christ Does Not Give Them Freedom To Do Wrong.

A. **Vs. 13 "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty..."**

1. "Liberty" = ελευθερια = "freedom".
2. "Called" = καλεω = "to summon", "to invite".
3. "For you brethren, have been called to freedom;" - Con

B. **"...Only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh..."**

1. "Liberty" = (See A 1)
2. "Occasion" = αφορμη = "that from which anything proceeds", "base of operations".
3. "Flesh" = σαρξ = "human nature, outward form".
4. "Only make not your freedom a vantage-ground for the flesh". - Con

C. **"...but by love serve one another."**

1. "Love" = αγαπη = "the highest form of love".
2. "Serve" = δουλευω = "to serve as a slave".
3. "but rather enslave yourselves one to another by the bondage of love" - Con

III. Freedom Must Be Governed By Love.

A. **Vs. 14 "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this;"**

1. "Law" = νομος = "here the Mosaic law." And this is in regard to one's neighbor, only. We must love God and neighbor to fulfill all the law.
2. "Fulfilled" = πληρωω = "to make full", "perform fully, complete, accomplish".
3. "Word" = λογος = "What is spoken".
4. "For all the law is made complete in one word". - Bas

B. **"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."**

1. "Love" = (See II, C, 1)
2. "Neighbor" = ο πλησιον = "the one near".
3. "Thyself" = εαυτον = "himself, itself, herself".

C. In the absence of law love will accomplish all that God requires therefore in the presence of love love will perform all that law requires.

IV. The Consequence of Freedom Without Love.

A. Vs. 15 **"But if ye bite and devour one another..."**

1. "Bite" = δακνω = "to bite, esp. of dogs, metaph. to molest, to irritate".
2. "Devour" = κατασθιω = "to swallow down", "to eat".
3. "But if freedom means merely that you are free to attack and tear one another to pieces,..."
4. The immature Jew would see his freedom as an opportunity to live an uncontrolled life. No more 10 commandments!

B. **"..take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."**

1. "Heed" = βλεπω = "to look", "to see".
2. "Consumed" = αναλίσκω = "to use up, spend, esp. in a bad sense, "to destroy".
3. "...take care that you are not destroyed by one another"

