

Title: Your Freedom Is For Love

Text: Galatians 5:13-15

Main Idea: Christian liberty is not freedom to sin, but freedom to love.

Division Statements:

1. Your freedom in Christ should lead you to oppose the sin nature (v. 13).

“Opportunity” translates *ἀφορμή*, which refers to a starting point or base of operations for an expedition; hence (1) occasion, opportunity, favorable circumstance (Rom. 7:8); (2) pretext, excuse (2 Cor. 11:12). The very idea that someone would use grace as a license for sin is intolerable (Rom. 6:1-2; Jude 4). Implicit, then, in this text and explicit in others is our division statement.

2. Your freedom in Christ should lead you to loving service (vv. 13b-14).

True Christian liberty frees us from sin and condemnation in such a way that we cannot help but respond in love to God and others. The first table of the law is all about your relationship and love to God, loving, honoring and worshiping Him. These happen first by faith, and that frees you to love your neighbor. So truly the whole law is fulfilled in the one who loves his neighbor as himself, just as verse 14 tells us.

3. Your freedom in Christ should lead you to avoid selfishly harming others (v. 15).

This verse is the opposite of the previous one and shows the terrible nature of life lived without the love of God flowing through to others. It is a life of bitter devouring abusive selfishness, that views other people as things to be used up and consumed. The text compares this life to brutal animalistic behavior. A life in which each individual feels like he has the right to run roughshod over others while gratifying his own whims and fulfilling his own selfish lusts. It is destructive.

Bridging From Text To Sermon

Textual Idea: Paul tells the church that God’s grace is never to be a license for sin, but an opportunity for love.

Sermon Proposition: Christian liberty is not freedom to sin, but freedom to love.

Interrogative: How should we use our great liberty in Christ?

Transition: There are three directions our freedom in Christ should take us.

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