

# WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

Galatians 5:13-17--April 21st, 2024



---

## **Sermon Recap:**

### **Living Free in Christ**

#### **I. The Nature of Freedom (v.13-15)**

Paul is getting ahead of a dangerous issue. If the law is not necessary for salvation, it could be claimed that obedience to the law is not necessary at all. If we are saved by grace, it doesn't matter how we behave. This is known as antinomianism ("against the law").

##### **a. Selfish Indulgence?**

- **Error:** If we are free from the condemnation of the law, then we are free to sin without consequences.
- Correction: v.13- "do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh."
  - "the flesh"- We have been made new, but indwelling sin remains.
  - "opportunity"- military term--"beachhead"
  - Do not give indwelling sin a "beachhead" from which to launch an assault against you.

##### **b. Sacrificial Love?**

- Instead of indulging the flesh, "Through love, serve one another, for the whole law is fulfilled in one word. You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (v.13-14).
  - This sums up the whole law:
    - If we are in right relationship with God (first four commandments), we will love our neighbor as ourselves (obeying the last six commandments).
    - Loving our neighbor sacrificially exhibits a genuine faith.
- V.15- Recall the two paths: justification by our good works OR justification by faith.
  - First path= self-righteous comparison leading the church to "bite and devour" one another.
  - Second path= freedom to loving serve one another, displaying the same grace that we received from Christ.
    - This is the nature of our freedom.

#### **II. Walking in Freedom (v.16-17)**

- "walk by the Spirit"- live by the Spirit
  - This walk/life is not a casual stroll. It is one of continuous, lifelong warfare between the Spirit and the indwelling sin.
- This battle sounds awful, but it is encouraging:
  - Every Christian endures this battle. You are not alone and the presence of this battle does not mean you are being punished or losing your salvation. It is part of sanctification.
  - Only Christians endure this battle. It is assurance of the presence of the Spirit in our lives.
- V.16- (Only) With the Holy Spirit, you are capable of conquering sin in this battle.

## **Discussion Questions:**

- What was Paul's concern regarding the freedom the Galatian Christians had in Christ?
- How does Paul teach us we should use our freedom?
- According to Paul, what commandment fulfills the entire Law?
- In verse 15 Paul accuses the Galatians of "biting and devouring each other." Where do you see this happening among Christians today? What remedy does Paul give for how to respond when we see or experience this?
- What is the nature of our freedom?
- What does Paul mean when using the word "walk?"
- What will keep us from carrying out "the desires of the flesh"?
- How should we approach indwelling sin in our life?
- Who has the struggle which Paul describes in verse 17?

## **Application:**

- Do you recognize any tendencies in your own heart to use grace as a license to sin? How can you fight against those temptations?
- As you fight this battle, where do you find encouragement, energy, and rest?
- Do you find yourself comparing your "works" to those of others? How can you improve the way you view that person?
- Do you practically, lovingly, serve your neighbor? Why or why not?
- 

