

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for May 18, 2008

Righteousness Displayed in Service
Galatians 5:13-15
Gerry Andersen

1. The privilege of freedom (5:13)

a. Our freedom is from the Law

Freedom is a theme of Galatians (2:4; 4:26; 4:31; 5:1).

b. Our freedom is from the Lord

As God gave the Law, so He gave us freedom from the Law.

2. The peril of the flesh (5:13)

Paul's use of the term "flesh" refers to our sin nature, which is our human propensity to indulge in our own desires.

We now, through the power of the Holy Spirit, have the choice to resist our fleshly desires and adopt godly desires.

While the deeds of the flesh are evident (5:19-21), they are only overcome by the fruit of the Spirit (5:22-24).

3. The path to fruitfulness (5:13)

When we are free to not be a slave to the Law, we are free to be a slave to one another.

The opposite of selfishness is service.

The service that is being spoken of is in regard to our fellow Christians.

It is not enough to just to serve others, we must serve others with love.

4. The principle of fulfillment (5:14)

It is impossible to understand how the whole Law can be fulfilled in love without understanding the purpose of the Law (Mark 2:27).

Loving ourselves is not prescribed, it is presumed.

Loving ourselves is not a good thing, it is a bad thing (2 Timothy 3:1-5).

The key to loving others is being loved by God (1 John 4).

There are two things necessary to fulfill the Law through love:

- The pure motivation of love
- The pure manner of love

The former involves the Spirit's work in our heart and the latter involves the Word's work in our mind.

5. The problem of failure (5:15)

When we do not serve one another through love, conflicts come.

The failure to love can destroy our future (Matthew 5:46).

When we do not serve one another through love, conflicts continue.

The failure to love can destroy our fellowship (cf. Philippians 4:2).

When we do not serve one another through love, conflicts consume.

The failure to love can destroy our faith (cf. Matthew 26:52).