

HAMMER IT HOME: *Live the Text and Do the Truth*

1. It is much easier to be **selfish** than **selfless**. Serving doesn't come naturally. Paul reminds us that our enemy in this is our flesh. In fact, he warns us not to bite and devour one another. That is quite a graphic picture. How do we deal with the flesh and its resistance to service? (For further reflection explore Romans Chapter 8 this week)
2. We have been set free to serve. How are we doing? Let's Evaluate:

CORPORATELY:

- What percentage of the church family do you think is serving in ministry? There is a general principle that is typical of most churches. It is called the 80/20 Principle: 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Do you think that applies to Cedar Hill?
- What would or could happen if everyone got involved in serving one another?
- What excuses do people use for not serving?

PERSONALLY:

- How are you doing in this area of serving? Can you honestly say that you are fulfilling the purpose for which Christ has set you free?
 - What areas of service are you involved in now?
 - What areas of service have you been involved in previously?
 - What areas of service bring you the greatest joy? With what age group?
 - Do you know your spiritual gift(s)?
 - Have you taken CrossPointe, Discovering Ministry and your spiritual gifts?
3. One area you may want to consider helping in is right here in your own **lifegroup**. Talk to your leader(s) if you would like to help out in your community!

HIDE IT IN OUR HEARTS: *Linger in the Text and Let it Dwell Richly*

Paul instructs us to "let the word of Christ dwell within us richly." (Col. 3:16) May this Word of Christ find good soil in our hearts as we memorize and meditate upon it until our next LifeGroup gathering.

"For you were called to freedom, brethren, only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

— Galatians 5:13



Sunday, August 5, 2018



Serve One Another

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HEAR IT: *Listen to the Text and Discover the Truth*

THE CONTEXT: Freedom in Christ

"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery."

—Galatians 5:1

1. Freedom has a _____. (Galatians 3:13)

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, 'CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE'—In order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (3:13,14)

"But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

—Galatians 4:4,5

2. Freedom has a _____. (Galatians 5:13)

"For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

THE QUESTION: WHY HAVE WE BEEN SET FREE?

1. ...NOT simply to get enslaved again—that's _____.

"It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore **keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.**" (v. 1)

"And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, **that he is under obligation to keep the whole law.**" (v. 3)

2. ...NOT so we could do whatever we want to do—that's _____.

"For you were called to freedom, brethren; **only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh...**" (v. 13)

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, **instructing us to deny ungodliness and world desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,...**"

—Titus 2:11-14

3. ...BUT to SERVE ONE ANOTHER—that's _____.

"For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, **but through love serve one another.**" (v. 13)

a. The _____: the _____.

"But I say, **walk by the spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.** For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law."

—Galatians 5:14-18

b. The _____: the _____.

"For even **the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**"

—Mark 10:45

"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, **got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel. He girded Himself.** Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded."

—John 13:3-5

THE TOWEL: THE _____ OF A SERVANT

If you have been set free from your sin by Jesus Christ, there is a towel with your name on it. Are you using it?

HASH IT OUT: Look into the Text and Develop the Truth

1. It has been said that "Jesus paid a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay."

"...having canceled out the certificate of **debt** consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

—Colossians 2:14

How great is the debt of our sin? Why is it not possible for us to pay it and redeem ourselves?

2. In the Old Testament, we find a similar **pattern** for the people of God. They were in **bondage** in Egypt. God **redeemed** them. And He redeemed them for a **purpose—to serve Him**. This is a "**type**" (**picture**) of our redemption.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD, "**Let My people go, that they may serve Me.**"

—Exodus 8:1

How well did Israel do in fulfilling their purpose?

3. It is so easy to misuse our freedom. As the passage teaches us, some tend to swing back toward a form of "legalism" (in Paul's day, that was usually those coming from a Jewish background). Others tend to swing toward a life-style of "license" (in Paul's day, that was usually those coming from a Gentile background). **What tendencies do you see in professing Christians today?**