

- I) V13 INTRO: For you brethren have **been called to liberty**; only do not use liberty as
Throughout this letter Paul has been emphasizing the blessings of grace
REVIEW
- II) As we've seen, **false teachers** infiltrated the churches bringing error
They were demanding the Galatians to keep the Jewish law
They stressed compliance with the law **as the means** of salvation
- III) By combining the law with **grace**, they undermined God's grace in salvation
- IV) God's grace **is essential** because it reveals God's unmerited favor and love
It provides the means of salvation and opens the door to reconciliation
- V) It especially emphasizes that salvation is not something earned, but is a gift
Salvation is not something that comes through our own efforts
Ro 3:20-24 For **by works of the law** no human being will be justified in His sight,
since through the law comes knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God has
been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to
it— the righteousness of God **through faith in Jesus Christ** for all who believe. For there
is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by
His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus
- VI) The Judaizers were perverting the gospel and drawing people away
They were compelling Gentiles to be circumcised, and to keep the law
- VII) Paul withstood this error, reminding the Galatians that they were saved by faith
Gal 2:16 a person is not justified by the works of the law, but **by faith in Jesus**
Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be **justified by faith** in
Christ **and not by the works** of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be
justified.
- VIII) Paul has exhorted the Galatians to resist entanglement with the law
Instead, they should stand fast in the **liberty** by which Jesus made them free (V1)
Liberty: Freedom, especially from slavery (to the obligations of the law)
- IX) V1 They are to **stand fast** (be firm; persevere) in this freedom from the law
They are to **confidently remain** in the freedom they have received in Jesus
They are not to put on the yoke of bondage to the rules and regulations of the law

- I) **In this chapter** Paul has told the Galatians to reject two things
They are to reject **false doctrine**, and they are to reject **the false teachers**
The persuasion is not from God, but from false teachers and false doctrine
AS WE SAW
- II) Paul was greatly concerned and angered over what the deceivers were doing
- III) He said concerning the false teachers
Gal 1:9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, **let him be accursed** (doomed to destruction)
- IV) He said those leading you into error will reap the consequences
Gal 5:10 **he who troubles** you shall bear his judgment
They will reap what they have sowed and will receive proper judgment
- V) Paul loved the church and had a pastor's love for them
When they were injured, he would also be injured along with them
2 Co 11:29 Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? Who is led astray, and **I do not burn with anger?**
- VI) This love and concern was something that he openly revealed
Gal 5:12
Why stop at circumcision? They should reveal their devotion by castration!
BEGIN STUDY
- VII) V13 For you brethren have **been called to liberty**
They deserve this because you were called to freedom, not bondage to the law!
- VIII) V13 You have been called (summoned; invited) to liberty
- IX) The gospel message **is an invitation** to freedom
Lu 4:17-19 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to **proclaim freedom** for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
- X) Jesus will set free from bondage of any kind, including religious bondage
Jn 8:36 If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed

- I) Paul has made it clear
Before Jesus died on the cross, we were in bondage to religious rules (4:3)
It was **a yoke of bondage** that no one could bear (Ac 15:10)
- II) Jesus' life, death and resurrection fulfilled the law's demands
Mt 5:17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.
Ro 10:4 Christ is the end of the law (it leads to Him and its purpose is fulfilled in Him), for (granting) righteousness to everyone who believes (in Him as Savior) **amplified**
- III) By trusting His complete fulfillment of the law, we are justified before God
This is how we became children of God
Gal 3:26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus
THIS IS ALL BY GRACE
- IV) The false messages delivered by false teachers **will not set you free**
Grace sets you free, but the law brings you into bondage
Gal 4:9 now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world?
- V) V13 For you brethren have been called to liberty (freedom from slavery)
Trusting Jesus frees us from the bondage of sin and results in **spiritual liberty**
V1 Stand fast in the **liberty** by which Christ has made us free
IMPORTANT
- VI) We are not free to do **whatever** we want, **whenever** we want to do it!
Grace is not given to us so that we can **continue in sin**
- VII) We cannot claim to be Christians, and yet continue living in the flesh, habitually
GRACE CAN BE MISUNDERSTOOD
- VIII) Some argued that Paul was giving people permission **to continue in sin**
They argued that grace really amounted to giving people permission to sin
- IX) He makes mention of this in the Book of Romans
Ro 3:8 Why not say, **as some slanderously claim that we say**, Let us do evil that good may result? Their condemnation is deserved!
DEVELOP
- X) Paul clearly taught that grace was intended to set us free, but **not in order to sin**

- I) Grace is intended to set us free **from the power of sin** so that we can serve God
Ro 6:1-2 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! **We died to sin**; how can we live in it any longer?
- II) **Died**: To die is to have nothing to do with it; to be totally separated from it
How can we **who have died to sin** live any longer under its domination?
POINT
- III) At one time we were dead **in sin**, but now we are dead **to the power of sin** over us
NEED TO DEVELOP
- IV) Christians have **died to sin** in at least two ways
FIRST
- V) Believers are dead to **sins dominance** in our lives
By faith, when tempted **we resist** knowing we have the power to do so
Ro 6:11 count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- V) **By faith**, offer yourself to God, not to a life of sin
Ro 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
Ps. 19:13 Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.
- VI) Understand and act on God's promise to provide grace to overcome
Heb 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
- VII) The indwelling power of God's spirit gives us power to resist and have victory
Ezek 36:27 I **will put** (pour out) My Spirit within you and **cause you to walk** in My statutes (laws) and to carefully observe My ordinances (authoritative decrees; orders)
- VIII) God's Spirit will motivate us to walk obediently, with joy as we do so
SECOND
- IX) Believers are dead to **judicial guilt** that results in judgment and eternal separation
Once again, this is because we have been saved by God's grace
Jn 5:24 Truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has passed from death to life.
Grace gives us freedom from sin, not freedom to sin

AGAIN

- I) Some interpret grace to mean permission to continue sinning
Christians do not continue to practice sin, but live separated and holy lives
Col 3:5-9 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. You used to walk in these ways, in the life **you once lived**. But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices.
- II) By grace, we live lives that glorify God and are victorious over sin
We have His power through the Spirit, and His direction through His word
1 Jn 3:6 No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who **continues to sin** has either seen him or known him.

IMPORTANT

- III) This **does not mean** that we are sinlessly perfect and never sin again
We deal with sin throughout our lifetime, and often fail
- IV) What it does mean is that when we fail, we are not forsaken
1 Jn 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father Jesus Christ, the Righteous One
- V) **What it means** is that we can now have victory in Christ over its domination
Ro 6:14 Sin shall no longer be your master because you are not under the law, but under grace

HOW DO WE EXERCISE OUR LIBERTY

- VI) V13 As God's servants we do not use our liberty as an **opportunity** for the **flesh**
Opportunity: A place from which an attack is made, a *base of operations*
Flesh: Impulses and cravings that satisfy natural, not spiritual desires

POINT

- VII) Do not let your Christian liberty become a base of operations for sin
Instead of habitually **sinning**, we learn to **lovingly serve** one another
- VIII) We are **free** in Jesus, but we are not free to only please ourselves
The liberty we have in Jesus **sets us free** to love and serve one another
1 Co 10:24 No one should seek his own good, but the good of others
This desire to serve reveals we have been given a new life

- I) When I think of the apostles, I think of them as giants of the faith
Indeed, they were, much beyond anything I could ever become
- II) With that said the bible provides clear insights into the lives of these great men
We have a record of their amazing lives as well as their weaknesses
INTERESTINGLY
- III) One of their ongoing disputes was who was the greatest in the kingdom
It was something they had on more than one occasion argued about
Mk 9:31-34 He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being *betrayed* into the hands of men, and they will *kill* Him. And after He is killed, He will *rise* the third day." But they did not understand this saying and were afraid to ask Him. Then He came **to Capernaum**. And when He was **in the house** He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who would be the *greatest*
- IV) It even carried over even into the events of this most solemn of nights
Lu 22:24-27 But there was also **rivalry** (strife) among them as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called benefactors. But not so among you; on the contrary he who is greatest among you, let him be a the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. For the who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you **as the One who serves**
- V) It was on this night that Jesus most dramatically modeled service
Jn 13:4-5 He rose from supper, laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself, poured a basin of water and washed the feet of His men
Jn 13:13-15 You call Me teacher and Lord and you say well, for so I am. If I then your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet you also ought to **wash one another's feet**. For **I have given you an example** that you should do as I have done to you
- VI) This is the only time Jesus specifically says He gave His men an example
His love for His men served as an incentive for them to serve one another
It wasn't just the action; **waiters serve tables** but don't love those having a meal
- VII) It was an action of love, intended to provoke the others to truly **love one another**
When you love someone, it is easier to serve them

- I) V13 With this in mind, we do not use our liberty as an opportunity for the flesh
We do not give way to sinful practices under the name of liberty
1 Pe 2:16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil;
live as bondservants of God
- II) V13 they were to, through love, serve one another
Phil 2:3-4 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in
lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out
not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
- IV) We follow His example and learn to serve one another, out of God's love
- V) V14 For **all the law** is fulfilled in one word, even in this You shall love your
Loving God will always be demonstrated by loving and serving others
1 Jn 3:18 Dear children, let's not merely **say** that we love each other; let us show
the truth by our actions
- VI) The false teachers were insisting on keeping certain rituals
Paul says that the law is fulfilled in loving one another
- VII) V14 We love our neighbors **as ourselves**: This is the Royal Law, Great Command
This command is repeated various times: Mt 22:35-40, Ro 13:9, James 2:8
- VIII) The point is **to love God is** revealed through the love you have for others
1 Jn 2:9 He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in darkness until now
- IX) Loving God and others is the fruit of the message of the gospel of grace
It is the power of God by His Spirit that gives the ability to love and serve others
To give up the freedom of serving self to serve others demonstrates regeneration
- X) V15 But if you bite and devour one another beware lest you be consumed by one
Bite and devour: To wound and destroy
Consumed: To spend or to use up
THOUGHT
- XI) Liberty is never to be used to give us freedom to destroy others
Our freedom in Jesus does not extend to hurting each other
Christians do not wound or destroy fellow believers

- I) We are to love and serve one another
Ro 15:1-2 We who are strong ought to bear the infirmities (sensitivities) of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good, to build them up
- II) How is this made possible? How can we serve one another and remain in unity?
The false teachers were creating division: what will preserve our unity?
- III) V16 I say then: *walk in the Spirit* and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh
As Christians, we have various disciplines we practice
We read scripture, pray, worship, witness, fellowship, serve and live in a certain way
- IV) **Still**: People can do all of this and still be unsaved, carnal, or legalistic
- V) It takes the power of the Spirit to produce a life of real righteousness
Ezek. 36:26-27 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.
PAUL'S POINT
- VI) Keeping the Law cannot give you a new heart, or the power to please God
The Judaizers were pointing the people to the Law, Paul points them to the Spirit
- VII) He had already asked them a powerful question
Gal 3:2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
- VIII) We need to be energized by **His Spirit**
Eph 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you **with power through his Spirit in your inner being,**
- IX) V16 Paul says Walk in the Spirit
Walk speaks of continuous progression, moving forward in Him
- X) As we grow in the Lord, we become familiar with how He works
It comes by the Word of God, prayer, godly people, His leading in our lives
It also comes through putting away sins: lust, gossip, bitterness, pride
V24 calls this crucifying the flesh

- I) Paul is pointing them, and us, to yield our lives fully to the power of the Spirit
This means to follow the guidance of the Spirit as He rules in our lives
Ro 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit are the sons of God
- II) The law of Moses did not produce in them a walk of faith, led by the Spirit
Paul is saying we must yield ourselves to His guidance
In doing so, we will have unity and love which reveals our walk with God
- III) In the early church, if the Spirit was not present, 90% of the activity would cease
Today, if the Spirit is not present 90% of the activity continues
The work of God is done through the Spirit of God
- IV) V17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh
The flesh is that part of a believer that functions apart from and against the Spirit
- V) There is a constant intense battle for control
They cannot ever live in agreement: the flesh is hostile towards anything good
Ro 7:15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.
- VI) Our most effective tool: Starve the flesh
Avoid anything that prompts a desire for what is sinful
Ro 13:14 But you put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.
- VII) V18 If we walk in the Spirit **we will not** fulfill the lust of the *flesh* (our habit to sin)
The Spirit never leads you into a place of temptation
- VIII) It comes down to choosing to yield to the Spirit, as difficult as it can be