

Galatians 5:13-15 A Warning

13. For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
14. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
15. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

Review

- Beware of those who teach that you must live by law, beggarly elements, or some other rule in order to become spiritual, v1-12.
- Beware of those who operate in the flesh and call it “liberty.”
- In v 13-15, Paul addresses the misapplication of grace and liberty to the life.

- V13 call - here the call is from God, this is not Paul's idea or plan. So..listen!!
- Liberty - freedom, the ability to live free from law or religious systems. These have no claims on the life of the believer, BUT neither does sin!
- Occasion - a military term for a forward operating base, a secure site to launch attacks. For the believer the flesh has a permanent base in us- Ro. 7:18, 25, 8:3-8, Gal. 6:12
- Love - agape, JN 13:35
- Serve - to become a slave- Mt. 20:28, Jn. 13:4-17, Ro. 14:17-19.

“Some think that liberty means license to do or say anything we want. But for the believer liberty is the freedom to do or say what God wants us to do or say, Thus through the love that He gives we should keep slaving for one another.”

Stewart Custer, Bob Jones University

- V14
- Love is the key to the Greatest commandment and to the New Commandment.
- -Law is not fulfilled by mindless doing, but by loving, submitting and serving others, Ro. 13:8-9. Law keepers, of any kind are all about “look at me.”
- Holy Spirit motivated love is NOT an attempt by self to “look” righteous.

- V15- this warning is to those who are living right “Ye.”
This is not directed at the false teachers
- Point- do not live a life marked by being cantankerous, judgmental, hateful.
- Bite / devour- literally to take chunks from one another, to act like savage animals.
- This behavior shows a complete failure to walk in the Spirit, to walk in love, and is a complete manifestation of the works of the flesh (v20).