

“AT LIBERTY TO LOVE!” **Galatians Chapter 5:1-15**

INSIGHT: Chapters 3 & 4 were **DOCTRINAL**; Chapters 5 & 6 are **PRACTICAL & PERSONAL**.

D) FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE (v1-6)

(v1) In New Testament times the phrase “take the yoke of” was used by the Jewish rabbis to mean, “Become the pupil of a certain teacher.” **Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30** - *Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*” (cp. Acts 15:6-11)

(v2-4) If one thinks that circumcision is a means of salvation, then this individual must keep the entire law, which would mean that you have *fallen from being saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ* (Rom. 3:21-26; Eph. 2:8-10); whereas, no one can be justified by the law (Rom. 3:20; 7:4-6; Gal. 2:19-20; 4:4-7; 1 Tim 1:8-9). The word *fallen* is *ekipto* (Gk.) which literally means to “fall off or from” and has the significance of consequently perishing. One commentator writes, “The same God who will not save a man against his will, will not keep a man saved against his will.”

Let’s never fall away from the grace of God. Warren Wiersbe teaches us about the bountiful grace of God as he writes, “God’s grace is sufficient for every demand of life. We are **saved by grace** (Eph. 2:1-10), and we **serve by grace** (1Cor. 15:9-10). **Grace enables us to endure suffering** (2Cor. 12:9). It is **grace that strengthens us** (2Tim. 2:1), so that we can be **victorious soldiers**. Our God is the **God of all grace** (1Peter 5:10). We can come to **the throne of grace and find grace to help in every need** (Heb. 4:16). As we read the Bible, which is “**the Word of His grace**” (Acts 20:32), the **Spirit of grace** (Heb. 10:29) reveals to us **how rich we are in Christ**. “*And of His fullness have all we received, and grace for grace*” (John 1:16). No wonder we love to sing “*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me, once I was blind but now I see,*” Amen.

(v5) **Born again believers eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith**, we are justified by faith, sanctified through faith, and one day we will be glorified because of faith in Jesus Christ! (Philippians 3:20-21; 2Peter 3:13)

(v6) **Our faith is working through LOVE!** (Turn to Matthew 22:34-40)

II) LOVE SERVES ONE ANOTHER (v7-13)

(v7) **Don’t let anyone hinder you from obeying the TRUTH!**

(v8-9) Leaven is used metaphorically in the Bible of an influence that can permeate whatever it touches; leaven is used as a symbol of a bad or corrupting influence (**Matthew 13:33** - Another parable He spoke to them: “*The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.*” Jesus used the word leaven in an evil sense to illustrate the “fermentation” of moral and political corruption: “*Take heed and beware of the leaven [doctrine] of the Pharisees and the Sadducees*” (Matthew 16:6,12). Paul also shares in **1 Corinthians 5:6-8** - *Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*

(v10-12) **The cross produces SALVATION (1Cor. 1:18) and PERSECUTION.**

(v13) **Our liberty produces LOVE TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER!** Turn to Romans 12:9-16

LOVE SERVES: (1) By clinging to what is **GOOD** (v9); (2) by being **KINDLY AFFECTIONATE** (v10); (3) diligent and fervent, **SERVING the LORD** (v11); (4) with attitude: rejoice in **HOPE**, **PATIENT** in tribulation, continue steadfastly in **PRAYER** (v12); (5) by **SHARING** and **CARING** (v13); (6) through **BLESSING** and not **CURSING** (v14); (7) with **FEELING** (v15); (8) through **UNITY** and **HUMILITY** (v16). (A Russian proverb, “Love and eggs are best when they are fresh!”)

III) LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR (v14-15)

C.S. Lewis said, “Indifference, not hate, is the strongest enemy of love.”

➤ **Embrace the grace! - Luke 10:25-37 (Love’s liberty!)**