

What is Freedom's Purpose? Galatians 5:13-15

Freedom, a word we have recently seen connected with other words: freedom _____ and freedom _____. Does freedom of speech imply I can say absolutely whatever I want to say, whatever I want to write? The _____ of _____ contains the 27 amendments to the constitution. They are all important but we seem to always heard about the ____, the ____, the _____ and the _____. Let's start by defining the term, freedom. The Latin word for freedom looks very familiar: Libertas. In Galatians the word freedom has to do with the teaching we are free from the bondage of having to keep the law to be a believer or to go on keeping it to stay one.

Going back to the OT to stay a believer is what we'd call _____. Another heresy is in the opposite direction and that's _____ otherwise known as antinomianism. This person basically believes he can live in unrestrained fashion all the while claiming to be a follower of Jesus.

Paul, however, in our verses today gives us the reason for our freedom. It is:

I. For Battling _____.

The apostle Paul, very clearly, warns us not to use our freedom as an _____ for _____. We have to understand that turning our _____ from sin into a _____ to sin is deeply ingrained in our natures. This liberty is sometimes interpreted by some as a privilege to do whatever we want. False teachers are routinely as source of this.

Actually, our freedom, Paul says is not really for ourselves.

II. For _____.

Our new found freedom was actually a call unto _____. We are called from a slavery of the law unto a _____ of _____ for our neighbors. Paul understood that _____ can only be overcome by _____.

III. For _____ the Law.

The law was fulfilled by loving our neighbor as _____. Lev 19:18, Matt 22:37-39. The love of ourselves leads to the _____ and the _____ of others. A question: Who is your

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neighbor? It is simply any and _____ whom _____ may put in your way.

IV. For Avoiding _____.

Paul finishes his thought here before the new heading of living in the Spirit. Life for people not living in an attitude of love for others is graphic picture. This graphic picture is of wild animals, snapping at each other, eating them like prey.

“Bite” satisfies the feeling of _____ while the “devouring” is proof of savagism. In this scenario, mutual destruction occurs and no one wins. Paul is painting a picture for us and warns that this environment, set inside a local church, can destroy the spiritual life of a congregation.

Sadly, this happens in churches, in homes, in marriages every single day. Doctrinal error tends to be the difficulty in these environments.

Was this happening in Galatia? Was the apostle warning what could happen? It's possible that the prejudice between Jew/Gentile, Greek/Roman, between the races had not completely been eliminated by the gospel.