

Free in Christ!
Free to Love
Sunday, May 15, 2022

Galatians 5: 13-18, 22-23 NIV

¹³You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. ¹⁶So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

1. Freedom Motivates Us to Love

Galatians 5:13 Use your freedom...to serve one another humbly in love.
Leviticus 19:34 The stranger...love him as yourself.
Matthew 25: 35-36 I was hungry, thirsty, needy, sick... and you served.

2. Releases Us from the Bind to Sinful Responses

Ephesians 4: 31-32 All bitterness, slander, anger be removed. Be kind, compassionate and forgiving as God has to you.
Romans 13:10 Love does no wrong to others so fulfills the law.
Galatians 5:18 If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

3. Manifests Peace and Unity

James 3:17 Wisdom from heaven is pure, peace-loving, and bears good fruit.
Ephesians 4: 2-3 Be humble, gentle; make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
Colossians 3:14 Over all virtues put on love which binds them together in perfect unity.

Conclusion: In Christ, we can freely love others as God freely loves us. We are not bound to the shackles of our human reasoning as to who is worthy of our love. We choose to love one another with the overflow of God’s love that is in us. This is the fruit of the Spirit at work in us. Against such things there is no law.

LIFE GROUP LESSON
Free to Love
Week of May 15 – May 21, 2022

Ice Breaker: What is your response to this truth: you are fully loved by God always- *and you can't earn this or lose this?*

Read Galatians 5: 13-18, 22-23.

1. What gift are we given? (v.13)
2. Since God fully loves us no matter what we do, is this free a pass to live however we want to and indulge ourselves?
3. What is this gift of freedom meant for? (v.13)
4. The entire law is fulfilled when we do what? (v.14)
5. Who is our neighbor?
6. What happens when we fail to love our neighbors? (v.15)
7. How does this affect God’s church? How does this affect His kingdom? *Who does sinful behavior give power to?*
8. What is our instruction with this freedom? (v.16)
9. What do we learn about how the flesh and the Spirit conflict? (v.17)
10. Read Ephesians 4: 31-32. What are responses of the flesh? What are responses of the Spirit? *Why do we choose fleshly responses?*
11. What does Galatians 5:18 mean, “you are not under the law”?
12. Would our sinful, fleshly responses uphold the law or condemn us?
13. Read Romans 13:10. What does the love of God fulfill?
14. Read Galatians 5: 22-23. When we are led by the Spirit what fruit is produced in our lives? What are we free from as we live in the Spirit?
15. Do you determine in your reasoning who you will actively show love to? Is there true freedom in this or does this bring bondage to you?
16. Do you struggle showing love freely to those you don’t know, those different from you, those who are sick and broken? What might be the reason for your struggle? Are you drawing from God’s love or trying to love in your own ability?
17. Read Leviticus 19:34. How important is this in the church?
18. Read Matthew 25: 35-36. What does love from God look like?
19. Read Ephesians 4: 2-3, Colossians 3:14. What does God desire for His people, the Body of Christ? Why?
20. What shackles can you let go of to freely love others with the love of Christ in you?

Point to ponder: God loves us with an abiding perfect love. He places no conditions on His love shown to us. In the Spirit, we are equipped to love others the same. Let us keep in step with the Spirit and enjoy the freedom to love one another.