

Woodland Baptist Church
Morning Worship - August 26, 2012
Galatians 5:13-15 Freedom to Love

1. Galatians 5:13-15

2. **1** We are freed through **CHRIST** and we stand firm in **CHRIST**.
3. **2-6** **WORKS** righteousness seeks to **REPLACE** righteousness by faith.
4. **7-12** Works righteousness is **INFECTIOUS** and must be **ELIMINATED**.
5. **13-15** True righteousness manifests in _____ and _____
 - a. **13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.**
 - i. **You were called - [kaleo]** - to _____ invite someone to accept responsibilities for a particular task, implying a new relationship to the one who does the calling—‘to call, to call to a task.’
 - ii. **to freedom - [eleutheria]** - this speaks clearly - freedom from what? Bondage of slavery to sin; we are no longer under the bondage of the law; we no longer have to be _____ ridden and constantly _____ about our adherence to the demands of the Law of God. Why? Because Jesus Christ fulfilled the law.
 - a) **Matthew 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.
 - iii. **Brothers** - through his incarnation, death on the cross, resurrection and ascension, Christ has made us fellow heirs of the kingdom of God of which we have the right be called “children of God,” and that is why we call one another and why Paul calls us brothers and sisters in Christ; we now belong to a new family for all _____.
 - b. **Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve on another.**
 - i. **opportunity for the flesh - [aphorme sarx]** - do not use your new standing in Christ...being a brother in Christ, or a sister in Christ...don’t use that freedom and blessings that go along with it

(belonging to the church, a Sunday school class, being a deacon or a committee member...etc.), don’t let those types of spiritual opportunities to serve some _____ purpose.

- c. **Through love serve one another - [agape douleuo]** - out of a sincere and real devotion where we consider others more important than ourselves.
 - i. **Philippians 2:3-4** - Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others...
 - (a) **2 Peter 2:16** - **16** Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a **cover-up for evil**, but living as servants of God.
 - ii. We must not use our freedom, our involvement in the faith for an opportunity of the flesh - some examples:
 - (a) Professing belief to gain entrance into the church to _____ upon the flock for personal gain.
- d. **14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**
 - i. **Quote from Leviticus 19:18** - **18** You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall **love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the Lord.
 - (a) If we are going to love our neighbor as ourself, we can’t take _____ of them...abuse them...lie to them...use them for personal gain to their detriment - for any reason.
- e. **15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.**
 - i. **bite - [dakno]** - to use the teeth to cut into something; wound with a sting; press painfully into the body; to cause harm
 - ii. **devour [katethio]** - to eat food or prey quickly and destructively; be totally absorbed by a powerful feeling; to destroy _____.
 - iii. **watch out [blepo]** - to be ready to learn about future dangers or needs, with the implication of preparedness to respond appropriately—‘to beware of, to watch out for, to pay attention to.’ **1 Tim 4:16** - **Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.**
 - iv. **not consumed - [analoo]** - to be used up, spent...completely ingested/eaten to where there is _____ left.