

THINKING BIBLICALLY
Galatians 5:13-26

- I. In Christ we have _____ Vs 1-12
- II. In Christ we have _____ Vs 13-15
- A. Our liberty in Christ is a _____ of God to His Children Vs 13a
1. **Brethren**-fellow believers
 2. **Called**-Invited by God
 3. **Liberty**-_____
- B. Our liberty in Christ is _____ a license to sinful behavior, but a license to Christ-like behavior Vs 13b
1. **Only use not**-do not allow this liberty to be used as an _____
 2. **For an occasion to the flesh**-for an opportunity for the sinful flesh
"I'm under *Grace*, and have liberty to do whatever I please"
 3. **But by love serve one another**
 - a. **But**-Instead of what Paul have just mentioned
 - b. **By love**-through the love that God is, and has been _____ in the believer
 - c. **Serve one another**-this is written in the *Gk* as a command not a request
- C. Our liberty in Christ is displayed by fulfillment of the OT Law in a NT age Vs 14
1. **Love thy neighbor**
 - a. **Love**-same usage as in verse 13
 - b. **Neighbor**-_____ who is not me, irrespective of what makes them who they are
 2. **As thyself**-in the same fashion and with the same intensity that you care for yourself
- D. Our liberty in Christ does not _____ for discord and division among the brethren Vs 15
1. "These Churches seem to have been in a state of great distraction; there were continual altercations among them. They had fallen from the grace of the Gospel; and, as Christ no longer dwelt in their hearts by faith, pride, anger, ill-will, and all unkind and uncharitable tempers, took possession of their souls, and they were in consequence alternately destroying each other. Nothing is so destructive to the peace of man, and to the peace of the soul, as religious disputes; where they prevail, religion in general has little place." **Adam Clarke**
 2. When faith in Christ is overthrown peace and unity come to an end in the church. Diverse opinions and dissensions about doctrine and life spring up, and one member bites and devours the other, i.e., they condemn each other until they are consumed. To this the Scriptures and the experience of all times bear witness. The many sects at present have come into being because one sect condemns the other. When the unity of the spirit has been lost there can be no agreement in doctrine or life. New errors must appear without measure and without end. **Martin Luther Galatians Commentary**
- III. Liberty _____ walking "in the Spirit" Vs 16-23
- A. Our liberty in Christ cannot be fulfilled in our own _____ Vs 16-18
1. Vs 16a **Walk in the Spirit**-Allow the Holy Spirit to be in _____ of our thinking and behavior
 2. Vs 16b **Ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh**-The old flesh is constantly trying to take back _____ of the thinking and behavior of the believer
 3. Vs 17a **Lusteth against**-a continual spiritual tug-of-war
 4. Vs 17b **These are contrary the one to the other**-they are at opposite ends of the spiritual spectrum, and as _____ as day and night
 5. Vs 17c **So that ye cannot do the things that ye would**-knowing what is spiritually right does not make it an _____ assignment to fulfill due to this continual spiritual warfare that is raging in our hearts

6. Vs 18 The true leader that we should _____ is the Holy Spirit

B. Our liberty in Christ _____ the continual control of the flesh Vs 19-21

1. Given the right conditions, the believer is capable of committing any sin while under the control of the _____

2. However, there is a _____ between committing sin and living in sin

3. Verse 19-21 reveals some of the potential of a flesh-controlled life, or an unsaved life

C. Our liberty in Christ is _____ by the power of the Holy Spirit Vs 22-23

1. **Fruit of the Spirit**-those _____ characteristics that come out of a person under the domination of the Holy Spirit. Fruit is only produced by living things.

a. **Love-Agape**; the kind of love that God is-a God-like attitude toward others

b. **Joy**-The exultation that arises from a sense of God's mercy communicated to the soul in the pardon of its iniquities, and the prospect of that eternal glory of which it has the foretaste in the pardon of sin. **Adam Clarke Commentary**

c. **Peace**-The tranquil state of the heart and mind of the believer that is _____ in and walking in obedience to the Holy Spirit

d. **Longsuffering**-The ability, given by the Holy Spirit, to _____ under a difficult or painful situation for a long period of time without yielding to the temptation to complain or retaliate

e. **Gentleness**-Kind; good-natured; friendly; tender; easy to talk to disposition

f. **Faith-Faithfulness**; _____

g. **Meekness**-Mildness, indulgence toward the weak and erring, patient suffering of injuries without feeling a spirit of revenge, an even balance of all tempers and passions, the entire opposite to anger. **Adam Clarke Commentary**

h. **Temperance**-Self (the _____ and _____) under control of God the Holy Spirit

2. The OT Law has nothing to say in _____ to that produced in the life of the believer by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Vs 23b

IV. In Christ we have crucified the flesh Vs 24-26

A. Our liberty in Christ allows us to crucify the flesh Vs 24

1. **Crucified**-nailed to the Cross so as to _____ the necessary death

2. **With the affections and lusts**

a. **Affections**-the "want" to fulfill the sinful desires of the old flesh

b. **Lusts**-_____ for the fruit of the flesh

B. Our liberty in Christ allows us to live by the influence and control of the Holy Spirit Vs 25-26

1. **Live in the Spirit**-are saved and thus have the indwelling Holy Spirit inside us

2. **Walk in the Spirit**-conduct our life behavior so as to demonstrate that the Holy Spirit is in charge and not the _____

3. Vs 26 Those things that will _____ be evident in the life of the Spirit controlled believer

a. **Desirous of vain glory**-wanting to be _____ by others

b. **Provoking one another**-_____ bringing out the _____ of another

c. **Envyng one another**-jealousy at another person for any _____

Concl: Liberty in Christ produces a behavior that only the Holy Spirit can take the _____ for.

Liberty apart from Christ produces a behavior that only the old flesh would _____ to take credit for. We must, by the power of God, decide as Christians that the Holy Spirit will control who we are.