

BOOK OF GALATIANS
BY LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER
GALATIANS 5:13-26

Introduction

Read *Galatians 5:13-26*.

No doubt, at least part of the argument of the Judaizers was that **Believers NEEDED the law to be able to live right after receiving Christ!** But Paul points out repeatedly here in Galatians and in other places of Scripture that **the Law CANNOT bring forth righteousness!**

In these verses, we notice the little phrase "*one another*" used a number of times here! Paul told the Galatian Believers (and us) here that the "*one another*" that we are to be about is "*...but by love serve one another.*" (Vs 13)

That is the "*one another*" that is God's will for each one of us as Believers! Because if we are **NOT** about *servi*ng *one another by love*, then these other unsavory "*one anothers*" come into play!

Paul warned them against *biting and devouring one another.* (Vs 15)

Paul warned them against being desirous of vain glory and "*provoking one another*" as well as "*envying one another.*" (Vs 26)

Now we know that these behaviors toward "*one another*" are **NOT** the way that Believers should act! Right? We shouldn't need to be told **NOT to bite and devour one another** and **NOT to be desirous of vain glory and provoke one another in a bad way or envy one another!**

But we need to understand that Paul was writing to people who were professing Believers—people who had made a profession of faith in Christ!

So, how does one who is a Believer come to *serve one another by love*? We know that just because we have been saved that **this does not come automatically or else there would be no need for Paul to mention it!**

We know by experience that it does NOT come automatically! None of us lost our flesh when we got saved! In fact our flesh is still just as corrupt as it was before we got saved! Our flesh is about fulfilling its own desires and serving self!

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Paul says as much about his own life in *Romans 7:18* "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*"

So then, how do we turn this around? Well, Paul tells us in *verse 16!* "*Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh*"

I. WE DO NOT FIND THE POWER TO "SERVE ONE ANOTHER BY LOVE" FROM THE LAW! (Vs 13-14)

When we were under the Law we **DID NOT** and **COULD NOT** serve one another by love!

The power to do that was **NOT IN US** because we did not have the Spirit of God living within whose fruit is love! That brings us to the second point:

II. WE FIND THE POWER TO "SERVE ONE ANOTHER BY LOVE" FROM THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT! (Vs 16; Cf. Romans 8:1-17)

A. Let's Consider Some Biblical Facts Regarding The Holy Spirit!

1. Fact: The Holy Spirit Is God!

I'm not going to spend time supporting this here because we'll be looking at this matter in detail in our Sunday School soon!

2. Fact: The Holy Spirit Indwells Each New Testament Believer From The Moment They Are Born Again!

In fact, Jesus promised us that this is the case! *John 14:16-17* *16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

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3. **Fact: The Indwelling Holy Spirit Is Our Teacher!**
*John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.***

He uses the Bible, the Word Of God, which He is the Author of, to teach us and bring things to our remembrance that we need in our lives!

4. **Fact: The Indwelling Holy Spirit Testifies To Us Of Jesus Christ Who Is The Both The Embodiment And The Example Of Love!**

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

5. **Fact: The Indwelling Holy Spirit Is The Believer's Guide To All Truth And The Key To Glorifying The Lord Jesus Christ!**

*John 16:13-14 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.***

So those are five facts regarding the Holy Spirit that indwells the Believer!

Now, back to our text in *Galatians 5:16* where we saw that it says, **“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”**

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- B. Let's Consider The Problem We Have As Believers.**

1. **Here Is The Problem Each Believer Has!**

We still, for now, live in this sinful, corrupt, rotten flesh! Our flesh wants us to fulfil its lusts or desires!

That is true before one gets saved! (*Vs 19-21*)

That is still true after one gets saved! (*Vs 17*)

So, if we are led or guided by our flesh, **WE WILL NOT PLEASE GOD!**

2. **The Lord Jesus Christ Gave Us A Solution!**

Here in *Galatians 5:16*, we are told the solution: **we are to walk or live in the Spirit!**

(i.e. Our lives are to be guided and led by the Spirit of God that lives within us! We must yield to Him!)

If we do that, we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh!

- C. Let's Consider How Does One "Walk In The Spirit?"**

1. The Believer must know and believe that the Holy Spirit is within Him, having been sent by God into his heart and life to guide him to all truth and to help him glorify Christ! (**Remember the 5 facts!**)
2. The Believer must know and believe that **the only way to freedom from our natural evil desires is through the empowering of the Holy Spirit living within!** We cannot accomplish this through our own power!
3. In every spiritual confrontation, the Believer must yield to the Spirit, that is, **submit his own desires (the desires of his flesh) to those of the Holy Spirit.** (*vs.16-18*)

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4. **The believer must depend on the Holy Spirit for help, enabling him to live a God-pleasing life. (vs. 5)**

By the way, the more that we are filled with God's Word (which was authored by the Holy Spirit!) the easier this becomes! Think of the B-I-B-L-E as this: **Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!**

That is why it is so important to be under the preaching and teaching of God's Word!

AND, that is why it is so important to **READ, STUDY, MEDITATE ON, AND MEMORIZE** God's Word!

Because the Holy Spirit uses His Word to help us walk!

WE DO NOT FIND THE POWER TO "SERVE ONE ANOTHER BY LOVE" FROM THE LAW! (Vs 13)
WE FIND THE POWER TO "SERVE ONE ANOTHER BY LOVE" FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT! (Vs 16) **As we walk in the Spirit, the love of Jesus is manifested in our lives to others!**

III. HOW CAN WE KNOW IF WE ARE WALKING IN THE SPIRIT?

Here is the simple answer: **By looking at the works or fruit of what is coming from your life!** Is it the **WORKS OF THE FLESH?** Or is it the **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT!**

A. Understand That The Flesh Is All About Self And Its Gratification! (Vs 19-21)

Our flesh brings about **the things on this list and "the like!"**

The things in this list are evil and destructive!

They are so very easy to ignite, but so very difficult to stifle!

They are ALL ABOUT SELF, not about others!

(i.e. self-centered)

They are very oppressive to others as well as being possessive!

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They are decadent, they are sinful, and they are deadly!

You can't serve **ANYONE BUT SELF** with any of these things listed or anything like what is on the list!

- B. Understand That The Spirit (Holy Spirit) Is All About Jesus And His Glory! (Vs 22-23)** (e.g. The 5 Facts earlier.)
These things that emanate from the Spirit are good things!
These things are self-giving/self-sacrificing! (Like our Savior!)
These things are both liberating and nurturing!
These things are wholesome, holy, and full of life!
These things are about TRUE LOVE!

A friend of mine shared an observation by D.L. Moody regarding the fruit of the Spirit we find here. I had never considered this before but it makes sense:

As we observe this list of the fruit of the Spirit, LOVE is first! And it is the Spirit of God living within that enables us to serve one another by LOVE!

Now consider the other fruit that is mentioned here. Here is what D.L. Moody had to say about them:

JOY is LOVE EXALTED!

(Joy means "a cheerfulness" or "calm delight" the Holy Spirit gives us a *cheerfulness* or *calm delight* in Christ!)

PEACE is LOVE IN REPOSE!

(Peace is a picture of one "resting". The Holy Spirit causes us *to be at peace* or *rest in the LOVE of Christ!*)

LONGSUFFERING is LOVE ENDURING!

(Longsuffering is forbearance or putting up with. The Holy Spirit helps us *to endure, to put up with, to forbear* when our flesh would want to lash out!)

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GENTLENESS is LOVE IN SOCIETY!

(Gentleness is moral excellence in one's demeanor. The Holy Spirit within us helps us to maintain a moral excellence in our demeanor as we go about in this world!)

GOODNESS is LOVE IN ACTION!

(Goodness means to go about seeking to do good! The Holy Spirit within us causes us to go about seeking to do good!)

FAITH is LOVE ON THE BATTLEFIELD!

(Faith means that we are relying on God's goodness and faithfulness taking Him at His Word! Being strong in the Lord and in the power of His might!)

MEEKNESS is LOVE IN SCHOOL!

(Meekness speaks of humility! The Holy Spirit within teaches us through the Word that the way up is down!)

TEMPERANCE is LOVE IN TRAINING!

(Temperance is self-control or rather "spirit-controlled"! The Holy Spirit is the "new us" and He teaches and trains us to be controlled by Him!)

Conclusion

If we yield to the flesh (or walk in the flesh), then the flesh is going to control our lives. When that happens we will bite and devour one another...we will provoke one another in a bad way and envy one another.

(i.e. We will do what WE deem best for US!)

If we yield to the Holy Spirit (or walk in the Holy Spirit), then the Holy Spirit is going to control our life and by Christ's love we will serve one another!

(i.e. We will do what the Holy Spirit deems best for Christ and others which also happens to be what really is best for us!)

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Either way we walk is going to affect the way we treat others! There is no getting around it!

The Holy Spirit gives us the love that we need. *Verse 22* says it is His fruit! *Romans 5:5, "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."*

Verse 15 describes the result when the flesh is in control.

The picture here is of wild animals attacking one another.

Unless the Holy Spirit of God is permitted to fill our hearts with His love, then selfishness and confusion will reign.

The Holy Spirit does not use force, He does not produce confusion, hurt feelings, animosity, an unforgiving spirit, or hate.

The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God, prayer, praise, worship and the fellowship of believers to lift us up, to encourage us, and to build us up in Christ!

Remember the word "*liberty*" in *verse 13*? We looked at it previously. This is a key word or key thought concerning our association with the O.T. law.

We have been made free from the Law in Christ!

Then someone may say, "*I can do as I please*".

No, that's the other extreme!

Legalism is one extreme: *license* is the other extreme.

License is throwing off all restraint, but *liberty* means walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. **It is not law on the outside, but the love on the inside that makes the difference!**

This "freedom in Christ" is demonstrated in our service to God and to man. This is why *verse 13* says, "*by love serve one another*."

Freedom in Christ is a responsible freedom that leads to a holiness of life.

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1. This freedom serves God and one another.
2. This freedom expresses itself in the great Christian virtues of the fruit of the Spirit. (*Vs. 22-23*)
3. We see in *verse 18* that the Christian does not need the restraints of law because his moral life is governed by the Holy Spirit living within!

Walking in the Spirit begins with Salvation! That's how you get help in not fulfilling the works of the flesh but rather manifesting the fruit of the Spirit!

Are you saved? Are you sure? If you aren't saved or aren't sure that your are saved come get some help this morning!

If you are saved, are you walking in the flesh or walking in the Spirit?

Are you serving self or are you serving others?

If you are NOT walking in the Spirit, repent from walking after your flesh and then let the Spirit guide you in the way you should walk!