**Freedom to Love**

**Galatians 5:13-15**

**Recap:**

* **No Other Gospel (Galatians 1:1-10)**
* **God Made Not Man Made (Galatians 1:11-2:10)**
* **The Wrong Compromise (Galatians 2:11-15)**
* **Living by Faith (Galatians 2:17-21)**
* **Faith Over Flesh (Galatians 3:1-14)**
* **Why Grace Still Reigns (Galatians 3:15-25)**
* **Living as Heirs in Christ (Galatians 3:26-4:7)**
* **Personal Plea (Galatians 4:8-20)**
* **Living in Freedom (Galatians 4:21-5:1)**
* **Standing Firm in Freedom (Galatians 5:2-12)**
  + **The Danger of Legalism (vv. 2-4)**
  + **The Power of Faith Working Through Love (vv. 5-6)**
  + **The Influence of False Teachers (vv. 7-10)**
  + **The Offense of the Cross (v. 11)**
  + **Paul’s Strong Rebuke (v. 12)**

**Introduction:**

* **Galatians 5:13-15**
* **“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love” (Galatians 5:13).**
* **In a world that often equates freedom with self-indulgence, Scripture offers a radical redefinition: true freedom is found not in serving ourselves, but in serving one another through love. Galatians 5 reminds us that the entire law is fulfilled in one command- “Love your neighbor as yourself.” But how can we love freely when our hearts are bound by fear, pride, or past wounds?**
* **Today, we will explore how Christ’s sacrifice did not just free us from sin-it freed us for love. We will confront the ways we misuse our freedom and rediscover the joy of living a life poured out for others. Because when we understand the depth of God’s love for us, we are no longer enslaved to selfishness-we are empowered to love boldly, generously, and without condition.**
* **Let us step into that freedom together.**

1. **The Gift of Freedom (v. 13a)**
   1. **Called to be Free: Freedom is a divine calling, not a human achievement.**
   2. **Freedom from the Law: Not bound by legalism but empowered by grace.**
   3. **Freedom with Responsibility: Liberty is not a license to sin.**
   4. **Romans 8:1-2: So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.**
   5. **John 15:15: I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn’t confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.**
2. **Danger of Misusing Freedom (v. 13b)**
   1. **Indulging in the Flesh: Warning against selfishness and sinful desires.**
   2. **Freedom twisted into self-centeredness: A distortion of Grace.**
   3. **Modern Parallels: How believers today might misuse spiritual liberty.**
   4. **Romans 6:1-2, 23: Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it…For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.**
3. **The Call to Serve in Love (v. 13c-14)**
   1. **Serve One Another Humbly: True Freedom leads to servanthood.**
   2. **Love fulfills the Law: Echoles Jesus’ teaching.** 
      1. **Matthew 22:39**
      2. **The second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”**
   3. **Practical Applications:**
      1. **Acts of Kindness**
      2. **Forgiveness**
      3. **Bearing One Another’s Burdens**
4. **Consequences of Division (v. 15)**
   1. **Biting and Devouring: Metaphor for conflict and Strife**
   2. **Self-Destruction: A divided church cannot thrive**
   3. **Call to Unity: Love as the antidote to division**
   4. **1 Corinthians 1:10: I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our God Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.**
   5. **Ephesians 4:3: Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.**
   6. **John 17:21: I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one-as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.**

**Conclusion:**

* **In Christ, we are not just set free-we are called to live free. This freedom is not a license for self-indulgence, but a divine invitation to love without fear, without condition, and without restraint. As we walk in the Spirit, we shed the chains of shame, guilt, and selfishness, and take up the mantle of grace, compassion, and sacrificial love.**
* **Let us remember: God’s love for us is not based on our perfection, but on His promise. Just as He loved us in our brokenness, we are now empowered to love others in theirs. This is true mark of freedom-not merely the absence of bondage, but the presence of love that transforms lives.**
* **So go forth love boldly, forgive freely, and serve joyfully. Because when we live in the freedom of Christ has given us, we become living testimonies of His redeeming love.**