

Gal. 5:13-18

Walking in the Spirit

vs.13- "called"-(kaleo) invited (same word vs.8)

- Paul uses this word again to keep reminding them that they were invited away from the direction they are going

- "use not liberty"- liberty must be maintained, not abused
(It becomes abused when its turned into a license to sin)

- "occasion"-(aphorme) a military term that means a base or headquarters

*the meaning behind what Paul is saying here is that the freedom that Christians have is not a base or platform from which they can sin freely from

- "by love"- (agape) the deepest of the loves mentioned in the Bible (agape, eros, philia, storge)

- *agape love is given to us by Christ and is the motive of true Christian conduct

- "serve one another"- (douleuo) to yield or submit to

- Christian love is submission to each other and not submission to the Law

vs.14- Paul's reference here implies the morality of the Law in relation to others (Ex.20:12-17)

- "love they neighbor"- this love is a product of the Holy Spirit

- *What was the real fulfillment of the Law? Love (John 3:16)

Truth- when a Christian genuinely loves others, he/she fulfills all the moral requirements of the Mosaic Law concerning each other

- *Paul then quotes Lev.19:18 to prove his point

- God's love that fulfilled the Law is the same love that is imputed into all believers

vs.15- the contrasting image Paul uses here is that of wild animals attacking each other

Question- Why do animals attack each other? Coveting and dominance

Truth- a legalist will always try to be dominant, imposing, and intimidating (like their teacher)

- this is what eventually happens between believers when we don't love and serve one another

vs.16- "Walk"- (peripateo) to make due use of opportunity

(This term is for how to regulate your life and how to conduct yourself)

- "Spirit"- it is He that gives us Divine direction and energizing power to overcome

- (Our only hope for deliverance from selfish lusts is the Holy Spirit's guidance)

- "lusts of the flesh"- keep in mind that the flesh is not redeemed (only our spirit)

- (Flesh dies and returns to the ground)

- *when God saves, He does not eradicate the old nature nor does He reform an old life

(He regenerates us by giving us a new nature in our spirit but we're still wrapped in sinful flesh)

- *a continual "walking" in the Spirit is the way a believer can have continual victory over flesh

vs.17- "flesh"- (sarx) this term means a physical person (blood, bones, and tissue)

- but it also means the sensuous nature of a person (this natural nature of man craves sin)

- "lusteth"- (epithumeo) to turn on something

*the flesh opposes the work of the Holy Spirit and leads the believer towards sinful behavior that he/she would not otherwise be compelled to do

- "contrary"- the Holy Spirit opposes the flesh and gives victory over it

- the flesh opposes the Spirit in attempts to prevent us from obedience, surrender, and victory

Truth- this is why Satan likes to tempt us according to the flesh

vs.18- being led by the Spirit means one is saved and living in obedience to Christ- John 16:13-14

- "under the Law"- the Law brings condemnation as it reveals in man what condemns him

- (Being under that means being under condemnation)

Truth- with the Spirit abiding in redeemed man to keep him in line and "walking" properly, there is no need for an external curb such as the Law (Rom.8:1-2)