

**Ye have been called unto liberty;
only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh**

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Gal 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

Gal 5:3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, **that he is a debtor to do the whole law.**

Gal 5:4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Gal 5:6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; **but faith which worketh by love.**

Gal 5:7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Gal 5:8 This persuasion [cometh] not of him that calleth you.

Gal 5:9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Gal 5:10 **I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded:** but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

Gal 5:11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

Gal 5:12 I would they were even cut off {amputate} which trouble you.

Gal 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Gal 5:14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, [even] in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Gal 5:15 But if ye **bite and devour** one another, take heed that ye be not **consumed** one of another.

Gal 5:16 [This] I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Gal 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Gal 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Gal 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Gal 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Gal 5:26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Key Points:

1. Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Gal 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Ditches on both sides

- Bondage (law, legalism, fanaticism, etc...)
- Flesh (compromise, lawlessness, lose living, no accountability, etc...)
- We have seen many examples of both cases

"Come outers" or "reformers" have a natural tendency to go to far one way of the other

- Context: Leaving Judaism to Christianity. Some were wanting to bring along "baggage"
 - Paul's thorn in the flesh experience – Was it the Jews?
 - Bondage (mandatory uniformity is not scriptural unity)
 - Some want to pull everyone through the same "knot hole"
- Diversity is not a bad thing
- [1Cr 12:4](#) Now there are diversities of **gifts**, but the same Spirit.
- [1Cr 12:6](#) And there are **diversities** of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

If you love something, let it go. If it comes back it's yours. If it doesn't, it never really was in the first place. -- Anonymous

We are not all alike, neither should we be

- We must all be given the liberty to exercise our own individuals gifts
- We will recognize the operation of the gifts when we see them in operation
- We will not all see some things the same, but you cannot rend us apart!
- "No power on earth or hell withal can rend us from each other"
- Some of us are outgoing, some talkers, "people person", introverted, extroverted

We must all work together

- When there are differences that arise, remember:
- Love your neighbor as yourself (verse 14)
- Be quick to make wrongs right.
- Exercise Matt 18: 14-17
- This procedure should be very common among us
- It is a good thing, not a bad thing! It works!

These past three years has been a time of settling, and it has been fairly smooth. However,

- Mistakes will no doubt be made
- Exercise loving kindness and check our attitude against verse 22-23 (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:)
- We must do our best to avoid the ditches
- We need each other!
- We are "experimenting". When you experiment, some times you make mistakes and have to back up
- We are breaking new ground
- The devil will fight hard against us
- He will use all his resources, including people (sometimes those we love most)

At the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Franklin is quoted as having replied to a comment by Hancock that they must all hang together: "Yes, we must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately.

ALSO quoted by Thomas Paine (Author of Common Sense)

Closing:

- Be on Guard
- "Pray for my strength in the Lord"