

The Transforming Power of Christian Freedom

Galatians 5:13-15

- 1. Christian freedom is the freedom to do and be what God called us to (13a)**

- 2. God did not call us to a fleshly freedom (13b/c)**

- 3. God called us to the true expression of Christian freedom: a life of loving service (13d)**
 - a. Why did we have to be set free in order to be loving servants?
 - i. We had to be freed from the bondage of our selfish heart and receive a new heart
 - ii. We had to be freed from the need to prove ourselves to God and others
 - iii. We had to learn about true love through Christ's work to set us free
 - iv. We had to see true servanthood in Christ's work to set us free
 - v. We had to be motivated by God's love for us that set us free
 - vi. We had to see our value to God so that we would properly value those whom we are called to serve
 - vii. We had to be empowered for loving service through the reception of the Holy Spirit

- b. What is this love?
 - i. It is love for others
 - ii. It is the motive for the service to others
 - iii. It is the expression of our faith in the gospel
 - iv. It is the love of Christ
 - v. It is miraculous
 - vi. It serves in every way while always pursuing the eternal good of others
 - vii. It is unconditional
 - viii. It is guided by God's Word
 - ix. It is a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

4. This loving service is the principle underlying the entire law (14)

5. If they do not understand true Christian freedom, God's children will turn against each other (15).