

## Galatians 5 - The Self-Serving Christian

June 30, 2016

### Galatians 5:13 NASB

**13 FOR YOU WERE CALLED TO FREEDOM, brethren; ONLY DO NOT TURN YOUR FREEDOM INTO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FLESH, BUT THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER.**

#### Freedom from the Law is two-fold:

1. Freedom from the self-righteousness of performance and following rules through self-discipline.
2. Freedom from the vicarious religion of man dominating our faith. We now have a personal and unique relationship with God directly through Jesus Christ.

#### But our flesh can easily distort those freedoms:

1. It doesn't matter what I choose to do - I don't live by rules.
2. I am not responsible for, nor do I answer to, any man.

*Christians in today's American Church have adopted the surrounding culture of this world system. They come to church to be served, instead of to serve, to be entertained, instead of to worship. They demand to be self-sufficient, independent and autonomous. Advancement and personal gain are valued instead of commitment and service. The result is that Christians individually and the Church corporately are weak, sickly and prey for every false doctrine and demonic attraction disguised in religiosity.*

*A Christian is most miserable, most oppressed, most unfulfilled, most depressed, when he/she are not living for what they have been called to do - "...through love serve one another..."*

Matthew 16:24-25 NASB

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

25 "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

### 1 John 3:16-19 NASB

**16 WE KNOW LOVE BY THIS, THAT HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE FOR US; AND WE OUGHT** (*opheilo - owe, be bound, be one's duty, be a debtor*) **TO LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR THE BRETHREN.**

17 But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?

18 Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.

**19 WE WILL KNOW BY THIS THAT WE ARE OF THE TRUTH, AND WILL ASSURE OUR HEART BEFORE HIM.**

*A Christian has been purchased by Jesus' selfless sacrifice on the Cross. The only acceptable response before God from the grateful Christian is to become a selfless sacrifice for others.*

*Being committed in serving one another is the Christian's calling, not an option. To accept the salvation of a Christian is to accept the divine appointment to servant.*

**1 John 4:10-13 NASB**

**10 IN THIS IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON TO BE THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS.**

**11 BELOVED, IF GOD SO LOVED US, WE ALSO OUGHT (*opheilo - owe, be bound, be one's duty, be a debtor*) TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.**

12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

**13 BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE ABIDE IN HIM AND HE IN US, BECAUSE HE HAS GIVEN US OF HIS SPIRIT.**

*If you are not experiencing the growth process of love where you are becoming less and less selfish and more and more selfless, then you have no assurance of abiding in Christ or Christ abiding in you.*

**John 13:13-17 NASB**

13 You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am.

**14 IF I THEN, THE LORD AND THE TEACHER, WASHED YOUR FEET, YOU ALSO OUGHT (*opheilo - owe, be bound, be one's duty, be a debtor*) TO WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET.**

**15 FOR I GAVE YOU AN EXAMPLE THAT YOU ALSO SHOULD DO AS I DID TO YOU.**

**16 TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, A SLAVE IS NOT GREATER THAN HIS MASTER, NOR IS ONE WHO IS SENT GREATER THAN THE ONE WHO SENT HIM.**

**17 IF YOU KNOW THESE THINGS, YOU ARE BLESSED IF YOU DO THEM.**

**Romans 12:1-13 NASB**

**1 THEREFORE I URGE YOU, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING AND HOLY SACRIFICE, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE OF WORSHIP.**

**2 AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, SO THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT THE WILL OF GOD IS, THAT WHICH IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.**

**3 FOR THROUGH THE GRACE GIVEN TO ME I SAY TO EVERYONE AMONG YOU NOT TO THINK MORE HIGHLY OF HIMSELF THAN HE OUGHT TO THINK; BUT TO THINK SO AS TO HAVE SOUND JUDGMENT, AS GOD HAS ALLOTTED TO EACH A MEASURE OF FAITH.**

**4 FOR JUST AS WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS IN ONE BODY AND ALL THE MEMBERS DO NOT HAVE THE SAME FUNCTION,**

**5 SO WE, WHO ARE MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST, AND INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER.**

**6 SINCE WE HAVE GIFTS THAT DIFFER ACCORDING TO THE GRACE GIVEN TO US, EACH OF US IS TO EXERCISE THEM ACCORDINGLY:** if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith;

7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching;

8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

**9 LET LOVE BE WITHOUT HYPOCRISY. ABHOR WHAT IS EVIL; CLING TO WHAT IS GOOD.**

**10 BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER IN BROTHERLY LOVE; GIVE PREFERENCE TO ONE ANOTHER IN HONOR;**

**11 NOT LAGGING BEHIND IN DILIGENCE, FERVENT IN SPIRIT, SERVING THE LORD;**

12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,

13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.