



## License or Love Galatians 5:13-15

### I. YOUR PAST CALLING (Verse 13a)

#### The Gospel of Jesus Christ – part 1:

- Christ paid your sin debt and set you free from the penalty of your sins (*Rom.3:24; 1 Cor. 15:3,4; Eph. 2:8,9*).
- You were saved, forgiven, and justified before God through Christ's substitutionary death on the cross.
- You have the assurance of eternal life (*Rom.8:35-39*).

#### The Gospel of Jesus Christ – part 2:

- You were freed from the power of your old sin nature by being identified with Christ's crucifixion, burial, and resurrection (*Rom.6:4-6, 11, 13; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal.2:20*).
- God has taken up residence in you and gives you victory over self and the flesh by living His life in and through you (*Rom.8:2, 14; 1 Cor. 2:12; 6:19; 12:13*).

### II. YOUR PRESENT CONDUCT (Verses 13b-15)

#### Not License:

1. Your freedom is not a license to indulge the lusts of your flesh (*verse 13b; Rom.8:5-11; Gal.5:17*).
2. Your freedom does not give you license to operate in your own self interests (*Verse 15*).
3. The means of defeating self is by the regular application of the death of the cross of Christ to those interests (*Luke 9:23*).

#### But Love:

1. We have been freed to serve one another (*Verse 13c*).
2. This service is motivated by love whose source is God (*Verse 14; John 15:12*).

## Application

The basis for any effective service is Christ's love

- We don't serve through any form of law (*vs.14*).
- We don't serve through obligation or compulsion.
- We don't serve through any human motivation.
- But we do serve through love (*vs.13c*).

This is not natural human affection for one another.

But it is God's love.

It is through the love of God the Holy Spirit dwelling within you.

Thus this love is sacrificial, undeserved, unconditional, and selfless.

It is truly a pure love.

So we have been freed from our fallible human love.

And we are enabled to manifest the love of God to one another.

Question: As a believer in Jesus, are you a soulish Christian or a spirit led Christian?

- A soulish Christian considers his own self interest.
- A spiritual Christian daily crucifies self and allows His spirit, under the control of the Holy Spirit, to dominate his natural self interest.