



The Whole Law in One Word

Galatians 5:13-15



For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.



Galatians 5:13

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- Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.



Notice how Paul still addresses the Galatians as believers—they are brothers.

This is an example for us.

What freedom is Paul talking about?



- Free to be or not be circumcised
- Free to take a walk on the Sabbath or fix the brakes on your car
- Free to eat road kill
- Free to not celebrate Passover, Pentecost, etc.
- Free to mix milk and meat
- Free to plant seeds together
- Free to eat fruit from a tree before 3 years



- **Free to shave with a razor**
- **Free to work your farm in the 7th year**
- **Free to gather grapes that grow in the wild**
- **Free to work the soil in the year of Jubilee**
- **Free to lend with interest**
- **Free to touch a dead body**
- **Free to let an adulterer live**



- **Free to eat octopus, shrimp and shellfish**
- **Free to eat pork BBQ and hot dogs**
- **Free to eat winged insects**
- **Free not to release loans on the 7th year**
- **Free to work an ox and a donkey together**
- **Free to mix linen and wool in the same garment**



You're NOT free to

- Be rude or unkind with your tongue
- Get in the flesh
- Sin or be unholy
- Ignore the Holy Spirit
- Hold grudges or be bitter
- Be immoral or unethical
- Cause a fellow believer to stumble



Turn to Romans 14

¹ As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. ¹³ Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother. ¹⁴ I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. ¹⁵ For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. ¹⁶ So do not let what you regard as good be spoken of as evil. ¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men. ¹⁹ So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. ²⁰ Do not, for the sake of food, destroy the work of God. Everything is indeed clean, but it is wrong for anyone to make another stumble by what he eats. ²¹ It is good not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything that causes your brother to stumble. ²² The faith that you have, keep between yourself and God. Blessed is the one who has no reason to pass judgment on himself for what he approves. ²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin.



Galatians 5:13

•Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh,



“the flesh”

Is the old sinful
nature you were
born with and saved
from



2 Peter 2:18

- For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.



the disciple of Christ

Asks:

Is this my flesh or the
Spirit leading me?



1 John 2:16

- For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

**This freedom we have been given requires
discernment and wisdom**

**You have the freedom to
throw away a coin in a
slot machine, but you do
not have the freedom to
spend the rent, gas, or
grocery money on slot
machines**



**We are not free to be foolish or to forget we are
stewards of God's money**



The Freedom to Tattoo?



Leviticus 19:28

You shall not make any cuts on your body for the dead or tattoo yourselves: I am the LORD.



How does each believer work through this?

- **Do I argue that I am not under the Mosaic law; therefore, this does not apply to me?**
- **Do I argue that this is obviously God's intent for His people and I am one of His people?**



The True Believer

Must think about
more than just the
freedom he has to
do something



Galatians 5:13

•Only do not use your freedom
as an opportunity for the flesh,
but through love
serve one another.

Look back @ V. 6



Galatians 5:6

- For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith **Working through love.**

Here's what really matters:



1) Do I have faith in the man Christ Jesus, the one mediator between God and man, the One who died for my sins and rose again with life everlasting for all who believe?

2) Does my faith manifest itself in acts of service for others? Do I love my neighbor?



How do we serve one another?

Through Love



- We pray one for another
- We bear each other's burdens
- We listen and speak truth w/ grace
- We provide a helping hand in times of need
- We share resources
- We coach each other through life in a fallen world
- We babysit each other's kids
- We attend baby and wedding showers
- We donate food for an UBER food drive





Six Examples of Serving Others w/ Love

Matthew 25:34-40



Matthew 25:34–40

³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’



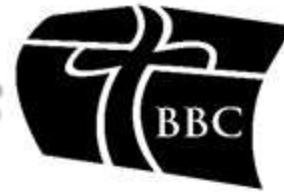
Galatians 5:14

- For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”



**Love your neighbor
as yourself**

**Is the ultimate rule for
ALL of Christianity**

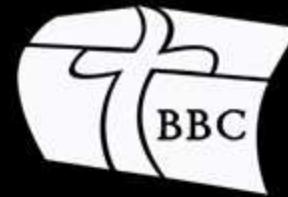


Love your neighbor as yourself

**is not a NT idea nor did it originate with
Jesus of Nazareth**

God gave it to Israel as part of the Torah

**And God gave it to Israel through six of the
ten commandments**



Leviticus 19:18

• You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, **but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.**



Do a word search
on the word
neighbor in your
Bible!



James 2:8

• **If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.**



Turn to Matthew 19:17ff



Matthew 19:16-17

- And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” ¹⁷ And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.”



Matthew 19:18-19

- ¹⁸ He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”



What happens next?

What does the RYR say?



Matthew 19:20

- The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?”



Turn to Luke

10:25-37



And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ²⁶ He said to him, **“What is written in the Law? How do you read it?”** ²⁷

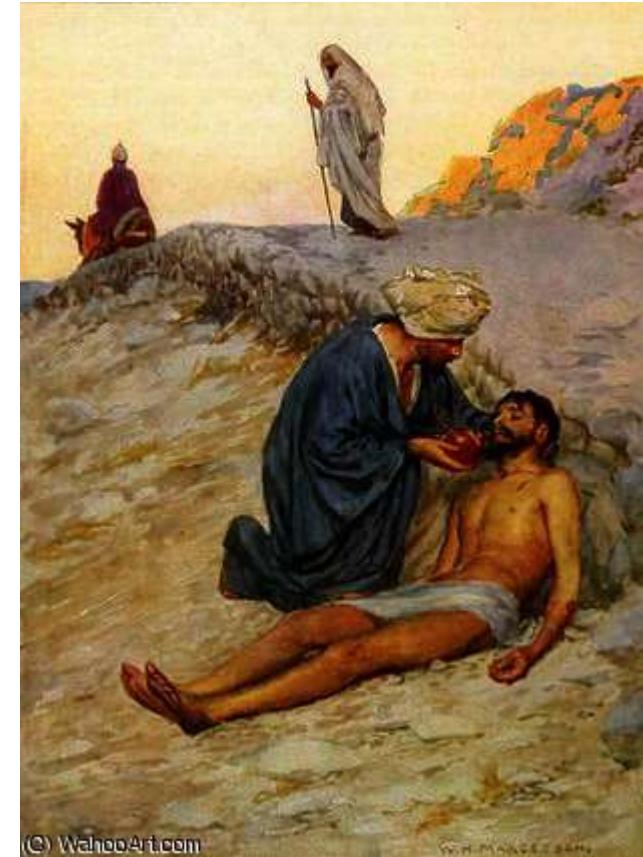
And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” ²⁸

And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.”

But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion.



34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.'



34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, ‘Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.’ 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” 37 He said, “The one who showed him mercy.**” And Jesus said to him, “**You go, and do likewise.**”**





Take both parables together

And what is the
point?



So according to
the parable:

Who is my
neighbor?

My neighbor is:



1. My spouse, (fiancée), girlfriend, or boyfriend
2. My mother & father; brother & sister
3. Friends & coworkers (fellow students)
4. My boss and his or her boss
5. Fellow members of the body of Christ
6. The person living next to me & across from me
7. Anyone God providentially places along my path of life



Romans 13: 8-10



Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, **“You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,”** and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: **“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.



Galatians 5:15

- But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.