



Servant's Corner

March 2014

Set Free For Service

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

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. Galatians 5:13

My church is currently going through a sermon series from Paul's letter to the Galatians. It's been a wonderful reminder that the Christian faith is all about God's grace. Using a multitude of proofs, the Apostle Paul sets forth the truth that the Christian life is not about law-keeping but trusting God and walking in the Spirit. Jesus paid a great cost to set the Galatian church free and Paul was urging them with every argument he could muster to maintain their freedom.

After pounding away at this truth for the majority of the book, Paul issues the warning, "*do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh*". This is a corrective for those who might be thinking, "Hey, I'm saved by grace, not works. My relationship with God isn't based on my performance...so why not give in to my fleshly desires?" Paul says God's purpose for our freedom is not to indulge the flesh, which would actually lead back to bondage (Romans 6:14-16), but for a lifestyle of service motivated by love. A life of love-motivated service is exactly what Jesus modeled for us during His earthly ministry (Philippians 2:5-8).

There is a great irony at work here. It makes no sense at all from a worldly perspective. The world tells us, "Freedom means doing whatever **you** want. Be the captain of your own ship, the master of your own destiny." In God's kingdom, totally free people become willing bond-slaves of Jesus. Those who could choose to do anything, willingly choose to serve. Only the Holy Spirit working in the life of a Christian could produce such a result, but that's just what He does.



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