

Series: Living Out Our Purpose
The Responsibility of Freedom

Celebrate Freedom Sunday (Serve others through Ministry)

Galatians 5:13-18 (NIV)

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

1. WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO FREEDOM.

v. 13a "You, my brothers, were called to be free..."

- In Christ there is tremendous freedom.

Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

- Our freedom comes from understanding and knowing the Truth.

John 8:32 (NIV)

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- The freedoms we enjoy as a nation stem from this biblical foundation.

2. OUR FREEDOM COMES WITH A BUILT-IN RESPONSIBILITY.

v. 13b "...But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love."

- Our default mode is to look after "Number One."
- Serving others frees us from the tyranny of self-indulgence.

James 5:5 (NIV)

You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter.

- Responsible freedom moves away from self and toward others.

3. WE SERVE OTHERS BY FINDING WAYS TO DEMONSTRATE OUR LOVE.

v. 14 "The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

- We serve others through ministry to them.
- We find our ministry by giving ourselves away.

4. SPIRIT-LED LIVING ALLOWS US TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SERVE OTHERS.

v. 16-18

- Our sinful nature is at war with the Spirit of Christ that dwells in us.
- When we serve others through ministry the battle subsides.
- Genuine freedom is discovered through responsibility.

Every freedom comes with a corresponding responsibility. Christ has set us free not purely for our benefit, but so that we can be free to serve others through ministry.