

One Hero's Fight for Freedom

Galatians 5:13-14 (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."

1. GOD INTENDED FOR US TO BE FREE.

Galatians 5:13 "...you, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature..." NIV

Romans 6:14 (MsgB)

Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.

- Our nation was founded to fulfill this principle.
- Our freedom runs deeper than social or political freedom.

2. FREEDOM IS NOT A LICENSE TO SIN.

v. 13b "...But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature..."

- Freedom does not equal autonomy.
- Freedom is not absolute.
There is no absolute freedom of speech.
There is no absolute freedom of the press.
- Freedom has a corresponding responsibility.

3. FREEDOM IS BEST UNDERSTOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF COMMUNITY.

v. 13c "...serve one another in love."

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

- My freedom cannot overshadow the freedom of my neighbor.
- My freedom is best expressed in love for my neighbor.

4. MY FREEDOM WAS GUARANTEED BY THE ULTIMATE HERO.

Galatians 5:1 "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." NIV

- Christ has set me free from the bondage of sin.

Romans 6:6 (MsgB)

Could it be any clearer? Our old way of life was nailed to the Cross with Christ, a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer at sin's every beck and call!

- My freedom has come out of tremendous sacrifice.

Romans 3:25 (MsgB)

God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin. Having faith in him sets us in the clear. God decided on this course of action in full view of the public—to set the world in the clear with himself through the sacrifice of Jesus, finally taking care of the sins he had so patiently endured.

- As a result of that sacrifice, I have an opportunity to spend eternity with the Father.