

"The Application of Grace"**Galatians 5-6****Part 2**

Introduction: Last week in our study we looked at Galatians 5:1-12 and in those verses, Paul told us about the repercussions of legalism. Tonight, as we continue, we are going to see what grace in the life of the believer looks like.

➤ **The Call to Freedom**

Notice Galatians 5:13a

Paul reminds us here that we have been called into liberty. We have been called into a life of freedom. Why do believers put themselves under the Law or under a set of rules that have been drawn up by someone? Many believers think that keeping the Law or following a set of rules is the way to a holy life and they believe that it is the way to please God. Let us understand that the way to please God is to live a life of faith.

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

To be pleasing to God is not in keeping the Law or any set of rules. But to be pleasing to God is to walk by faith in what His Word says about us as believers. Jesus Christ died to set us free from the Law. Now we are free to live for Him, which is something that we could not do before.

Romans 6:17-20

¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

¹⁹ I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

²⁰ For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

We are free from the Law and free from sin and now we can live a life of faith in this freedom. But our freedom does not mean that we are free to live in sin as many want to believe.

Romans 6:1-4

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

² God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

¹⁵ What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Titus 2:11-12

¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

¹² Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

It is grace that teaches us how to live lives that are free from sin and manifests the life of Jesus Christ. What does this life look like?

1. It is a life of service.

Notice Galatians 5:13 again.

Now that Jesus has set us free, we are free to serve others as we pass through this life. Before our liberty we were servants to ourselves. That is what the flesh does, it lives to bring pleasure to itself. But now our flesh has been crucified with Jesus Christ on the cross and we are free to allow the Holy Spirit to lead us in serving others.

Notice the words from the Life Application Bible.

"Paul distinguishes between freedom to sin and freedom to serve. Freedom or license to sin is no freedom at all, because it enslaves you to Satan, others, or your own sinful nature.

Christians, by contrast, should not be slaves to sin, because they are free to do right and to glorify God through loving service to others."

Now some would say that they served others before they were saved. That may be true but the motive was wrong. Before salvation we may have served others but we did it with the hope of getting something in return or we did it to be noticed. Now that we are free, we can serve others just as Jesus did, with no hidden motive.

John 13:4-5, 15-17

⁴ He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

⁵ After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

¹⁶ Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

¹⁷ If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Philippians 2:3-7

³ Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

Notice Galatians 5:13 again.

The word "love" here is "agape" which means this is an unconditional love. We are to serve others through agape love which means that we serve unconditionally. That means we expect nothing in return.

2. It is a life of loving others.

Notice Galatians 5:14

Here Paul goes back to the Law. Let me explain that when the Bible says that we are dead to the Law it does not mean we completely ignore the Law. It means that we do not attempt to keep the Law for justification or for sanctification. We do not keep the Law as a way to please God or to earn His favor. But as we live by the control of the Spirit, He will enable us to live God's moral law such as we see here. We will love our neighbors as ourselves.

Notice Galatians 5:14 again.

What is the one word that fulfills the Law? It is LOVE. Let me show you.

Exodus 20:3-8

Vertical Commandments.

³ *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*

⁴ *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

⁵ *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

⁶ *And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

⁷ *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*

⁸ *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

Exodus 20:12-17

Horizontal Commandments.

¹² *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.*

¹³ *Thou shalt not kill.*

¹⁴ *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*

¹⁵ *Thou shalt not steal.*

¹⁶ *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*

¹⁷ *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.*

How would someone fulfill these commandments? Love is the answer.

Matthew 22:36-40

³⁵ *Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,*

³⁶ *Master, which is the great commandment in the law?*

³⁷ *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*

³⁸ *This is the first and great commandment.*

³⁹ *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

⁴⁰ *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*

When a person loves God, they will walk in obedience. When a person loves their neighbor, they will desire the best for them. This is only possible for the person who is filled with the Spirit.

Notice Galatians 5:14 again.

When we are controlled by the Holy Spirit, we will love our neighbors as ourselves. But this raises a question which is seen in Luke 10.

Luke 10:29-37

²⁹ *But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?*

³⁰ *And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.*

³¹ *And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.*

³² *And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.*

³³ *But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him,*

³⁴ *And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.*

³⁵ *And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.*

³⁶ *Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?*

³⁷ *And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.*

Our neighbor is anyone we have contact with. Getting back to the point, we now have the freedom to love others and not just ourselves.

3. Freedom from spiritual cannibalism.

Notice Galatians 5:15

Paul here is warning the Galatians about falling back under the control of the flesh. This is what happens when people are controlled by the flesh. They turn into spiritual cannibals.

James wrote to believers and he gives a description of what happens when believers are controlled by the flesh.

James 4:1-4

From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

² *Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.*

³ *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.*

⁴ Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Conclusion:

In Jesus Christ we are free but not free to sin. But free to live a life pleasing to the Lord which was impossible before Jesus set us free from the power of sin. We are no under grace and the grace of God enables us to live righteous lives.