

BOOK OF GALATIANS

“*Through Love Serve*”

Scripture Reading: GALATIANS 5:13-15

-) **SLIDES 1-6**. Bible Jeopardy!
-) **SLIDES 7**. Read today’s Scripture text.
-) **SLIDE 8**. Today we continue in our expository study of the Book of GALATIANS. This is message #36. I have titled today’s message “*Through Love Serve*” (v13).
-) By this point in this letter, Paul has presented his case for salvation by faith alone. Either you have faith in Christ alone for your hope of eternal life, or you want to contribute works into that equation for your hope of eternal life. One brings freedom and salvation (Christ alone) and the other brings slavery and damnation (works / circumcision). And you have heard me repeat Paul’s words for the past 36 weeks.
-) And now, beginning in 5:13, he shifts the theme of his letter from theological to practical. He shifts the theme of his letter from here’s what you need to know (theological) to here’s how you need to act (practical).
-) **SLIDE 9**. In theological circles, the word “*application*” is used to define these types of Biblical verses. Webster defines the word “*application*” as “*an act of putting something to use : a use to which something is put.*” It’s how we apply what we have been taught. PTI.
-) **SLIDE 10**. GALATIANS 5:13. And now that his case for Christ alone has been presented, he says that those who have been called by God are free. Free from what? Free from the Law. Free to do what? Certainly not whatever we want.

-) **SLIDE 11.** EPHESIANS 2:10. Called for what? To do good works. Today we will talk about the greatest work we can do as those who have been called according to His purpose.
-) **SLIDE 12.** GALATIANS 5:13. Paul tells the Galatians (and us) that through love we are to serve one another. Serving one another through love is something a Christian will do.
-) **SLIDE 13.** GALATIANS 5:15. Obviously there are some issues going on within the churches in Galatia. Imagine that. Friction within a church. Are these folks truly Christians? Paul has already addressed that issue. If you bite and devour and are consumed by one another, where do you truly stand with Jesus Christ and your faith?
-) **SLIDE 14.** GALATIANS 5:14. This command is found in LEVITICUS 19:18 and Jesus, in MATTHEW 22:40, sums up the second greatest commandment as this.
-) The Galatians struggled with love. Christians over the centuries have struggled with love. And we struggle with love too. At least I do. And maybe you do too. So, let's get practical this morning and talk about love.
-) **SLIDE 15.** Love is something that can be given or received. 1JOHN 4:19-21 tells us that we love because God first loved us. We have received His love. I like that. I'm glad I have received His love. Therefore, because every believer has received God's love, every believer must give and share that love with others by serving one another.
-) So, I ask. Do we really love? I want to throw out some challenges to all of us here this morning. And I want to get very practical with the remainder of this message.
-) Do we love others in the same way Jesus loved other people? In MATT 22:39 Jesus tells the expert in the Law to "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" Should we? Yes. Do we? We all need to answer that question for ourselves.

-) Do we love people, or do we sometimes wish they would just go away? If you are on any sort of social media, then you know that there are people out there who will make us angry, people we disagree with.
-) And there just may be times when we say things like, *“I can’t stand that person. I don’t want to be around that person.”* Or do we go so far as to say, *“I hate that person.”* And these people may not attend BGCC, but they just may be brothers and sisters in Christ.
-) The believer doesn’t hate. The believer loves. Sure, there will always be people who rub us the wrong way. But we are never to hate them. We are to love them. We are to love the unlovable. Can we do that?
-) Did you ever notice that the ones that we dislike the most are the ones we disagree with? Did you ever notice that the ones that we dislike the most are the ones that are not like us?
-) Unfortunately, there are many Christians who have this uncanny ability of not allowing love to flow from their hearts even though love is a character trait of a transformed life.
-) **SLIDE 16.** Do we love those who disagree with our political views? Do we love those who disagree with our religious views? Do we love those of the opposite gender? I have two new words to my vocabulary. Misogynist. A man who hates, dislikes, mistrusts, or mistreats a woman. Misandrist. A woman who hates, dislikes, mistrusts, or mistreats a man.
-) Do we love people regardless of their skin color or are we really racists? *“I’m white so I don’t like black people. I’m black so I don’t like white people.”* Do we love people who do not have the same ethnic background as we do? *“I’m an American so I don’t like the Hispanics...or the Asians...or the Arabs. How can I possibly love those people who come from a different part of the world than I do?”*

-) And we still have this in America today. *“I’m from the north and I can’t love people from the south. They’re so backwards.” “I’m from the south and I can’t love people from the north. Would you please just go back home where you belong.”*
-) *“I’m short so I don’t love people who are tall.”*
-) *“I’m tall so I don’t love people who are short.”*
-) *“I’m fat and I can’t stand people who are thin.”*
-) *“I’m skinny and I can’t love those obese fat people.”*
-) *I have red hair, black hair, blond hair, short hair, long hair, curly hair, pink hair, straight hair, no hair, and if your hair isn’t like mine, I don’t even like you let alone love you.”*
-) *“You have body piercings. Forget you.”*
-) *“You have tattoos. No thanks.”*
-) *“You’re a piece of rich white privileged trash. Stay in your own side of town.”*
-) *“You smell. Get lost. Go beg somewhere else.”* Any of this sound familiar?
-) We have become a culture of believers who fail to love because others are just not like us. Is that the kind of love Jesus calls for from the believer? Selective love?
-) The story of the rich young ruler can be found in the gospels of MATTHEW, MARK, and LUKE. But the Gospel of MARK adds something the other two gospels do not have.
-) We all know the story. This rich young ruler wants to know what to do to inherit salvation. Jesus knows him. Jesus knows his heart. Jesus knows that this man is selfish and will place his possessions above anything else, and that this ruler wants to apply his good works to earn his salvation. As a ruler he is propagating a false gospel. The rich young ruler doesn’t get it and Jesus knows this. This rich young ruler is not like Jesus.

-) **SLIDE 17.** But then after all of the ruler's bonehead answers in response to Jesus' questions, MARK 10:21 tells us this: "*Jesus looked at him and loved him.*" How amazing! That's the kind of love I want to flow from my heart. I want to have the kind of love where I can love the unlovable and those who disagree with me.
-) The same kind of love Jesus could show even to people like this rich young ruler or the people who nailed Him to the cross. "*Father forgive them.*"
-) I want to love the people I disagree with. I want to love the people who are not like me. I want to be able to love the unlovable. It's easy for me to love all of you. But how easy is it for me or any of us to love those out there that are not like us?
-) The Bible never commands us to be BFFs with everyone or to hang out with everyone. But it does command us to love them. Did you ever notice that the ones we dislike the most are the ones that need our love the most?
-) There is a problem at the churches in Galatia. People are biting and devouring each other. That's not love. That's the human condition.
-) And as we will see in the weeks to come, love is a fruit of the Spirit. Every believer has the fruit of the Spirit. Therefore, every believer must show the fruit of the Spirit. We are called to love those who are nothing like us. We are called to love the unlovable. That kind of love will change the world.
-) So, what is Paul telling us in today's lesson?
-) **SLIDE 18.** Through obligation serve one another. "*I'm on this committee and that's what we do. It's not what I signed up for, but I do it. It's an obligation, so I serve.*"
-) **SLIDE 19.** Through guilt serve one another. "*If I don't do this, then everyone will think I'm a bad Christian. So, I better do it and do it with a smile. Out of my guilt, I will serve.*"

-) **SLIDE 20.** Through peer pressure serve one another. *“Everyone else is doing it, so I better do it too. I really don’t want to do it, but since everyone else is I will too. Because of the peer pressure, I will serve.”*
-) **SLIDE 21.** Through reciprocation serve one another. *“Well, they helped me once upon a time, so I owe them one. Then it’s their turn again. I owe them, so I’ll serve.”*
-) **SLIDE 22.** Through love serve one another. *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”*
-) Now that we know the Word, let’s apply the Word. Love one another. It will be the most challenging thing we will ever be commanded to do as Christians.

6/27/2021 at Beech Grove Christian Church