

## **Exegetical Notes – Galatians 5:13-15**

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### **Galatians 5:13-15**

#### **Verses 13-15**

***You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.<sup>14</sup> For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”<sup>15</sup> If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.***

- Paul tells the Christians in Galatia that they have been called to freedom. They are no longer bound to sin and the effects of sin. Through his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus set them free. Under the New Covenant in Jesus' blood they have also been set free from the bondage to the Old Testament Law. They have been set free by Jesus.
- However, this freedom is not license to indulge in any behavior they please.
- The new law which governs their behavior in Christ is the same law which underlies the Law of Moses. They must do that which is most loving, first to each other and then to those outside the Church as well. They must “love their neighbors, Christians and non-Christians, as they love themselves (see Matthew 5:15, 7:12, and Mark 12:31.)
- Paul warns Christians to live under this Law even though they have been set free. Because if they fight against each other, they will destroy each other and the whole Church.

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