

Scripture: Galatians 5:1-15

I. Paul tells us to enjoy the _____ we have through Jesus. Galatians 5:1-3

1. Standing in liberty is growing to be like Jesus through the Bible, Prayer and the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:17-18.

II. To turn to the Law is _____ from grace. (4-6) Romans 8:26-28

III. Beware of the _____. Galatians 5:7-12

1. Beware of the leaven.

2. Understand the offence of the cross. Hebrews 12:2

**IV. God wants us to use our liberty to _____
_____ in and outside the church. (13-15).**

1. Liberty is not a license to sin. 1 John 1:9

2. Love must be the motivating factor of our service. (13b-14) Ephesians 4:12-16; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; John 13:34-35

Many folks have a problem with religion; so, do I. Jesus taught us that God is interested in having a relationship with us. Paul is stressing that how we relate to God determines the closeness of our relationship. The Jews lived under a set of rules known as the Law. It revealed the truth about sin. It pointed out the authority of God and did reveal what God considered sin. The problem was the power to obey was provided by man who proved unable to resist temptations. Grace opens us to the power of love. We live a world where people are searching for hope; maybe even searching for someplace where they matter. What that means is people are looking for a community of people who love them. Galatians 5:(13b-14) but by love serve one another.¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. The Law often condemned and pointed out reasons why a person didn't measure up. Too often the measuring up was based on man's standard not Gods. Ravi Zaccharias: *Jesus brought hope and healing, not condemnation and reprimand. But we tend to focus on each other's mistakes and sins. We hurt and injure the already injured. We knock out the already knocked down. We have lost the shared meaning of pain.* Grace provide the Holy Spirit whom empowers us to truly love our neighbors as ourselves and to offer love to someone who is hurting, enabling Jesus to change their heart. Our calling is to point people to Jesus. **Pastor Bruce**