

Unselfish – Part 2 – Free to Serve
Sunday, October 15, 2017

Galatians 5:13 (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.

Galatians 5:13-14 (CEV) My friends, you were **chosen to be free**. So **don't use your freedom as an excuse** to do anything you want. Use it as an **opportunity to serve each other** with love. All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself.

✓ I must choose between serving others or myself.

John 15:13 (NIV) Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”

— [John Bunyan](#)

Matthew 20:25-28 (NKJV) But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but **whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant**. And **whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave**-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

“We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.”

– **Winston Churchill**

John 13:1-17 (NIV) It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean. When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.** I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. **Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.**

- ✓ For God to effectively use me, I must intentionally engage in serving others.
- ✓ When serving others, look to God for your blessing. Expect nothing from people.

Romans 12:1-21 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--

this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.** If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be **devoted to one another** in brotherly love. **Honor one another** above yourselves. **Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.** Be **joyful** in hope, **patient** in affliction, **faithful** in prayer. **Share** with God's people who are in need. **Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.** Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. **Live in harmony with one another.** Do not be proud, but **be willing to associate with people of low position.** Do not be conceited. **Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.** If it is possible, **as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.** Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.**