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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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Study: Book of Galatians

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Date: 08/27/14
Gal.5:1-13-15
File: D140827

AN ANALOGY OF CANNIBALISM WITHIN CHURCH

Last Sunday, we discussed the idea that spiritual freedom offers the opportunity to launch (aphorme) the flesh or the love of God towards other believers amidst conflict.

We learned that Paul encouraged launching the service of love based on an important precept of the Law (Lev.19:18; Gal.5:14).

Today we will study the terrible effect that launching the flesh (Old Sin Nature) can process into if not stopped!

(Gal.5:15) **“But if (1cc/ true) you bite (katesthio/ p.a.ind, 2pl) and devour (dakno/ p.a.ind.2pl) one another, take care (blepo/ p.a.impv.2pl) lest (me/ negative result) you be consumed (analisko/ a.p.subj.2pl) by (huper+abl. agent of cannibalism) one another (allelon/ reciprocal pronoun).”**

<p>This lesson will study three aspects of how to prevent Cannibalism within Church.</p>

1. To the spiritually advancing believer, it is important to remember who God declares is your neighbor and who are not you enemy in Christian Way of Life (CWL).

(Eph.6:12) “For our struggle is **not against** flesh and blood, **but against** the rulers, **against** powers, **against** the world forces of this darkness, **against** the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

Note the **one (not against)**. “The believer’s enemies are the demonic hosts of Satan, always assembled for mortal combat.” (Ryrie Study NASB, footnote)

(Gal.4:15b-16) “For I bear you witness that, **if possible**, you would have plucked out your eyes and given to me. So have I **become you enemy** by telling you the truth?”

2. There is no verb in the middle phrase, “only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh.”

The absence of the verb places emphasis on the connection between:

- first phrase - “For you were called to freedom, brethren.” and the
- last phrase - “But through love serve one another.” (Gal.5:13)

The action of the non-verbal middle phrase places emphasis on two important aspects of Directive Will of God of **“You were called to freedom.”**

- Negative (**only not/ monos me**): _____.
- Positive aspect (**but/ alla**): _____.

Paul used the Law to show positive side to it like in (Gal.3:24) – “Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.” (Gal.3:24-25)

3. Paul showed that the entire Mosaic Law (ML) was fulfilled in God's Love.

“For the whole law is fulfilled (pleroo/ perf.a.ind.3ps) in **one word**, in the statement, ‘You shall love your **neighbor as (hos/ comparative particle/ making neighbor and yourself inter-changeable) yourself.**”

Out of all God's vocabulary words, He chose His Love to fulfill not only the ML but the entire OT canon.

(Matt.22:40) “On these two commandments depend the whole Law and Prophets.” (Matt. 22:33-40; Rom.13:10)

It is in Christ that God's love and freedom is established on basis of grace (John 3:16; 1 John 4:9-11).

(Rom.5:8) “But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Jesus gave a new commandment for the Church Age Believer (CAB) – “A new commandment I give to you, that you love another, **even as I** have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34)

Therefore, **Paul** says spiritual freedom gives every CAB the “opportunity to serve one another through God's love.” (Gal.5:13)

God's love is a fruit of the Indwelling Holy Spirit (IHS) (Gal.22:23) as a result of walking by means of the IHS (Gal.5:16-17).

Peter explains the spiritual importance of “serving others through God's love”

(1 Pet.4:8) “Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”

God's love is better than biting, devouring and consuming one another through your Old Sin Nature, your flesh whether that is in your marriage, family, work, school, neighborhood, or church.

It is God's will!