

TURNING SPIRITUAL FREEDOM INTO WARFARE

(Gal.5:13) “For you were called (kaleo/ a.p.ind.2pl) to (epi+locative of purpose) freedom (eleutheria/ Isf) (Gal.5:1), **brethren**, only do not turn your freedom into (eis+accusative of purpose) an opportunity (aphorme/ asf) for the flesh, but (alla/ contrast) through (dia+genitive of means) love, serve (douleo/ p.a.impv.2pl) one another.”

**This lesson will study three aspects of Paul’s warning about
Turning Spiritual Freedom into Warfare.**

1. Paul issued a warning and a doctrinal solution regarding Turning Spiritual Freedom into Warfare to the Galatia Churches in our lesson text.

(Gal.5:15) “**But if** (1st Class Condition = True) **you bite** (dakno/ p.a.ind.2pl) **and** (kai/ adjunctive) **devour** (kateshio/ p.a.ind.2pl) **one another, take care** (blepo/ p.a.impv.2pl) **that you are not consumed** (me analisko/ a.p.subj.2pl) **by one another.**”

A.T. Robertson illustrated this as two snakes swallowing each other by their tails until both were dead.

This conflict arose from doctrinal disputes between the **legalist liberty party** and the **grace liberty party** within the Christian church.

The first attack upon the spiritual freedom of the Christian church was in the first century AD with the Church of Jerusalem. It was an attack upon the gospel of grace salvation (Acts 15:1, 5, 11; Eph.2:8-9; Gal.3:24-29).

2. Satan is the adversary of Christ and the Church (1 Pet.5:8-9; Rom.10:17).

As such, he found ways to attack God’s plan by division over the truth of God’s word (Matt.16:21-23).

He learned this strategy from the Garden of Eden “cool” Bible Study (Gen.2:17; 3:1-8).

Satan uses disguise and deceive and distort against the truth of God’s word (2 Cor.11:3, 14; 1 Tim.2:14).

Satan’s character (his essence):

(John 8:32) “He does not stand in the truth because there is **no truth in him**. Whenever he speaks, he **speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature**, for he is a **liar and the father of lies.**”

3. Through-out the history of Christianity, it has fought against doctrinal divisions of One Body of believers being of One Mind.

(1 Cor.2:16) “For who has known the mind of the Lord, that He should instruct Him? But we have the **mind of Christ.**”

(Eph.2:14-16) “For He Himself is our peace, **who made both groups into one**, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in **Himself He might make two into one new man**, thus establishing peace, and might **reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross**, by it having put to death the enmity.” (1 Cor.12; Rom.12; Eph.4:4-6)

- First century (AD) Jerusalem Church (Acts 15)
- Fourth century (AD) Christianity the religion of Roman Empire
- Eleventh century (AD) Roman Catholicism split into Eastern Orthodoxy
- Sixteenth century (AD) Protestant Reformation

After the Protestant Reformation, the Christian Church has not been in any sense monolithic. It has been divided up into doctrinal factions known as denominations.

Remember the danger of Robertson's illustration of two snakes and the snake of Garden of Eden.

Apart from the doctrinal teaching of GRACE, the Christian (New Covenant) church has lost the unity of One Church, being of the **One Mind** (The mind of Christ) and of the **One Voice** of grace salvation to the world.

(1 Cor.1:10) "Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree, and there be no division among you, but you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment."
(2 Cor.13:11)

Every generation of new covenant believers must fight for SPIRITUAL FREEDOM of the Grace of Jesus Christ.

(Gal.5:1) "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore, keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery (Law vs works)

(Gal.2:16-21) "nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified. But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be! For if I rebuild what I have *once* destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor. For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness *comes* through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."