

Jan 5th – Sermon notes

Introduction

Monthly Focus: True liberty in Christ empowers us to love others deeply and genuinely.

Text Passages:

- **Galatians 5:13-15 (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. The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other."*
- **1 Peter 2:16 (NIV):** *"Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God."*

Connecting Liberty to Love: Celebrating freedom in Christ leads to a greater capacity to love.

1. Called to Freedom

- **Early Morning Reflection:**
 - **Bondage to Sin:** Prevented us from passing the righteousness test.
 - **Jesus' Role:** Passed the test and paid the penalty of death for us. Now, we are no longer being tested.
 - **No Test, No Bondage:** The law of the Old Covenant, including the Ten Commandments, was nailed to the cross.
 - **Faith in Jesus:** The new test requires faith, not performance.
 - **High School Analogy:** Once graduated, no need to re-graduate.
 - **Indwelling Spirit:** Our diploma.
 - **Glorious Status:** We are blameless, righteous, eternally beloved, citizens of heaven, and members of God's household.
 - **Need for Transformation:** Moving from intellectual grasp to internal transformation.
 - **Support Required:** God's word, Spirit, and one another.

2. Liberated to Love

- **Ambition to Please:** Motivated by awareness of God's favor, not performance.
- **Greatest Commandment:** Love God and love your neighbor as yourself.
- **Complexity of Love:** Requires discernment and fellowship with the Lord.
- **Actions Guided by Love:** Love is patient, kind, not jealous, and keeps no grudges.
- **Personal Example:** LaVern's sweet and considerate love.
- **1 Corinthians 9:19 (NIV):** *"Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible."*
- **Community Reflection:** Commendation for love shown last year and elder leadership.

Conclusion

- **Theme Recap:** Called to Freedom. Liberated to Love.
- **Need for Supernatural Help:** To clothe ourselves in the truth of God's grace.
- **Forward into the New Year:** Embrace liberty in Christ and let it fuel our love for one another.

Other verse references:

- Matthew 22:37-40 - First and Second Greatest Commandments
- Romans 8:1-4 – Righteous requirements fully met.
- Acts 17:24-31 – Paul in Athens: Explains the “Unknown God”
- Hebrews 10:1-18 – The old test versus the new.
- John 3:36 – The only question on the new test.