

Sermon Series:
The Epistle to the Galatians
"The Nature of Christian Freedom"
 Galatians 5:13-15



It is interesting to think about the contrast between legalism and love. Love puts the welfare of others ahead of yourself whereas legalism is all about self: it's narcissistic. It is a very self-oriented way to live one's life.

By definition (and in counter distinction to love), legalism looks at oneself to see how one measures up. It is based on competition and comparison. It is based on figuring out where one fits in the spiritual pecking order. And the only way to do that is to constantly have eyes on yourself.

In Galatians 5:13-15 we find the antidote to legalism—namely, love. Christ's love is more powerful than rules and regulations could ever be. Throughout Galatians the theme has been the same: Have nothing to do with legalism or salvation-by-works. Avoid it like the plague. Avoid a system of living that attempts to earn God's favor through regulations, rules, ceremonies, or human effort.

Love does not seek its own. Love is not selfless, but legalism is. Love doesn't keep account of wrong, legalism does. Because the churches in Galatia were operating out of legalism instead of love it's not surprising that the Galatians had infighting. Paul says they were acting like animals fighting and devouring each other.

If we are saved, do we live like we used to? God forbid! If we are to be children of God, we should live as children of God, and obey those things our Father commands us to do. We must shed the chains of legalism and, in our freedom, love our brothers and sisters as ourselves. This is the point Paul is making in this passage.

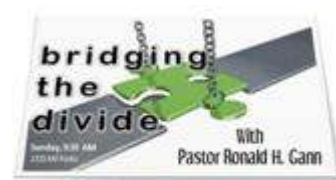
Come join us this Sunday, January 29th, at 10 AM, for *Lesson #16: The Nature of Christian Freedom* and learn more!

Blessings,

Ron Gann

Malachi 2:5-7

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