“Through Love Serve”

Intro: Many have referred to this Galatian letter as the Magna Carta of Christian Liberty. Indeed, it is the single greatest Biblical document concerning the _____________ the believer possesses ___ ____________.

A. Thus far as we’ve studied Paul has denounced a great _____________ of Christian liberty and that is: ________________.

B. In our text today, Paul denounced a second _________________ enemy that stands opposed to true Christian liberty and it is: ________________.

1. This “license” comes as an _____________ against the Christian liberty on ______ fronts.

2. Firstly, it comes as an _________________ made by those who adhere to legalism. In countering the truth of Christian liberty they raise the fear that if people possess freedom in Christ they will act irresponsibly, in violation of the will of God and, that those who teach such a thing are themselves _________________ antinomians.

3. Secondly, license or licentiousness comes as an attack threatening true Christian liberty as some erroneously see the doctrine as that which actually grants them _________________ __ ________ freely, without regard to the will and judgment of God.

4. In our text this morning Paul at once _____________ both errors concerning license and, in so doing, he begins to _____________ the Christian’s ________________ to the Christian’s living.

I. In an _________________ statement Paul categorically affirms that believers, the brethren, are indeed called to ________________.

   A. “You were called!” Leon Morris writes, “Paul does not see them as people who of their own volition decided to become Christians. They became Christians in the first instance _________________ was at work in them; God called them.” Amen! “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined ... and whom He predestined, these He also called” (cf. Ro. 8:29-30). _________________ to God ____________!

   B. 2 Cor 3:17b, “... where the Spirit of the _________ is, there ___ ____________.”

II. What freedom is this to which we are called__

   A. Here the word “freedom” is a definite article. You were called to “______ freedom” which is the unique one of a kind _____________ freedom, a spiritual liberating freedom of which no other _________________ can begin to compare.

III. Paul instructs us saying, “only ____ _____________ your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh.”

   A. This is a very stern word by which Paul made it clear that he is ______ a libertine who advocates _____________ living, nor that the spiritual freedom which he preaches is that which grants the believer unrestricted _________________ to indulge in sin.
B. Believers are commanded ______ to allow their new found freedom in Christ ______ be that upon which the sin nature would capitalize, taking it as the opportunity to ______.

C. Whoever regards their freedom as the license to continue in sin is in fact, ______ ________ ___. ... Therefore, license is the very opposite of freedom and that which Paul would ______ teach.

D. The Christian freedom is freedom ________ sin, ______ freedom ____ sin!

IV. The Christian freedom that is granted every believer is to be _____________ by every believer not in self-indulgence but through ________ in service one to another.

A. Now, in Christ we are freed ________ the ______ of hatred, and the sin of self-seeking, and the sin of prejudice, and the sin of gossip, and the sin of back-biting, and the sin of dissension, being made free then ___ ______ one another!

B. In this verse the word “love” is also a definite article. It refers to the unique one of a kind love of God! It is that “divine ________ love.” So then, the Christian freedom is expressed in that divine love that actively ________ to ____ and accomplish what is best for its object.

C. The word translated “__________” is the same which is translated “servant” and “slave.” The Christian liberty is not displayed in selfishness, but in __________ service. Hendriksen writes, “Here in verse 13 note the paradox: ‘freedom ... serving.’ A paradox, indeed, but not a self-contradiction, for such service is ___________ from the heart.”

D. Oh, we do _____ serve one another as those under the Law, who serve under ________________, who serve the letter of the Law but miss the spirit entirely, who serve to merit salvation for themselves (and that then with ulterior motive), but we serve __________because we love our Lord and have found serving Him through lovingly ministering to others to be our great joy in Him, by which we also emulate Him and thereby, __________ Him!

Closing: Here is true Christian freedom: the ____________ to do the will of God, to joyfully conform our will to His. Before we came to Christ we could not do this. We might have pretended but we could not ________ and therefore, we could not love (agape)! Here is true Christian freedom: not self-seeking but through _____ joyfully and voluntarily seeking to serve the other for their highest good. And as we continue to grow in this truth, so will this congregation be a community of believers who continue to grow in their glorification of _____!

Beloved, you are free to love! Your ship was anchored by sin and legalism so that you couldn’t set sail! But ________ has cut you free from that anchor, not as giving you license without sail or rudder but as with ________-driven sail and ________ directed rudder you are free indeed, set free to ________ and ________.

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