Responsibility To Others Pt. 1 sermon for 4-23-17

In this 3 week series, we are going to dive into an aspect of the Bible that is both simple to understand and difficult to accomplish. The Law of Love.

The impact of the Law of Love is that it proclaims to us loud and clear that you and I are responsible *to* others.

For today’s message, please turn in your Bibles to Romans 8. Put your finger there.

Then turn to Galatians 5:13.

# Galatians 5:13-26 (NKJV)

**13**For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **14**For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gal+5%3A13-26&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29177a)]**15**But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

**16**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. **17**For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. **18**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

**19**Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gal+5%3A13-26&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29182b)] fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, **20**idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, **21**envy, murders,[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gal+5%3A13-26&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29184c)]drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**22**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23**gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. **24**And those *who are* Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25**If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. **26**Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

**The Law of Love**

**13**For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. **14**For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Gal+5%3A13-26&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-29177a)]**15**But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!

Love is necessary for morality to exist. For love is a responsibility to others.

* **The Law of Love keeps us from breaking God’s moral law.**
  + 14For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
    - God’s entire moral law is accomplished in who He is—love.
      * **That means that being motivated by the fruit of the Spirit in Gal 5:22—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—is being motivated by God.**
  + This law of love can keep us in a good relationship with God.
* **The Law of Love keeps us from ruining one another.**
  + **15**But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!
    - Bite = “to wound the soul by reproaches”
      * Constantly treating people with disappointment and disapproval.
    - Devour = “to ruin” by leaving nothing worthy of respect after your done proving them wrong, incompetent, or invaluable.
  + This law can keep us in a good relationship with other people.
* **The Law of Love keeps us from the effects of sin and death.**
  + **Romans 8:2-4** (NKJV)
  + **2**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. **3**For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, **4**that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
    - The Law of Love is also called the Law of the Spirit and the Law of Christ.
    - **The Law of Love frees us from sin and death because Jesus conducted Himself perfectly according this law before He gave His life on the cross in our place.**

**Walking in the Spirit**

**16**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. **17**For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

* **Walking in the Spirit keeps us from satisfying fleshly desires.**
  + You have two minds or opinions in you fighting for control of your actions—the mind of Christ and the carnal mind.
    - The mind of Christ is the Spirit of Christ bringing life to your human spirit.
  + **The mind of Christ is always going to encourage you to act in love; whereas your flesh will always encourage you to act in selfishness.** Even when you do loving deeds in the flesh, the motives are self-centered and therefore ungodly.
    - Most of the time the actions that these two perspectives are lobbying for are so opposite that the only difficult part is deciding which perspective you are willing and ready to follow.
    - But what happens when both minds are telling us to do the same thing?
      * **The actions that both the mind of Christ and the carnal mind are pushing us to do can look the same, but the goals of the two minds will be extremely different.** 
        + Examples:

The mind of Christ and our carnal mind are both of the opinion that a child must be punished. However, the mind of Christ desires punishment in order to instruct whereas the carnal mind desires punishment to express anger or vengeance.

The mind of Christ and our carnal mind are both of the opinion that you should give money to a charity. However, the mind of Christ desires giving in order to glorify God in blessing the less fortunate whereas the carnal mind desires giving to either feel pride in one’s better state or alleviate guilt for a sin committed.

The mind of Christ and our carnal mind are both of the opinion that we must rest. However, the mind of Christ desires rest in order to admit limits, remember our dependence on God, and take stock of our lives, whereas the carnal mind desires rest to pursue escape through entertainment or sheer inactivity.

The mind of Christ and our carnal mind are both of the opinion that a sinner should be brought to justice. However, the mind of Christ desires justice to preserve society, bring the sinner to repentance, and offer an opportunity for the sinner to be restored whereas the carnal mind desires justice for vengeance or because the sinner deserves punishment and has acted in a way that you *never* would.

* + - * **God will not judge us solely for our deeds, He looks deep into our hearts and discerns the primary motivation for our conduct; and that is what we will be judged for more than the actual deeds we have done.**
      * One last word on this: Don’t allow the presence of a selfish/carnal motivation stop you from making the decision that the mind of Christ wants you to make.
        + We generally feel guilty when we want the right thing for both good and selfish reasons which leads us to second-guess making the right decision at all.
        + We are human and therefore will always have the carnal mind battling the mind of Christ in us. So don’t wait for this struggle to go away before acting; if you do, you’ll wait until you’re dead.
  + **Always be honest to admit that you have selfish reasons along with godly reasons for your action, pray that God will change your heart to be like Him and that He will judge you according to His mercies and your integrity, then finally, do your best to desire God’s goals.**
* **Walking in the Spirit keeps our mind on things of the Spirit.**
  + **Romans 8:5-8** (NKJV)
  + **5**For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6**For to be carnally minded *is* death, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. **7**Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. **8**So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**Loving Others Is Loving God**

# Romans 8:2-4 (NKJV)

**2**For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. **3**For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, **4**that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

#### So we see that our responsibility to others is to love them.

**Our responsibility to love others is the “righteous requirement of the law”; and that shows us that upholding our responsibility to love others is upholding our responsibility to love God.**

**One cannot fulfill one’s responsibility to others without knowing Love—you cannot truly love as God loves without being transformed by His love.**