

May 22, 2022



BIBLE LESSON

12



KEY VERSE: The entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:14)

Love One Another

Lesson Scripture: Galatians 5:1-15

God's Word

1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. **2** Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. **3** Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. **4** You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. **5** For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. **6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. **7** You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? **8** That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. **9** "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." **10** I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. **11** Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. **12** As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves! **13** You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. **14** For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **15** If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Bible Story

Love One Another

Galatians 5:1-15

In today's passage of Scripture, the apostle Paul continues his letter to the church in Galatia, letting them know that they had freedom because Christ made them (and all believers) free. He encouraged them to stand strong and not change and go back into the slavery of the Law. He warned them that if they went back to the Law and were circumcised, then Christ was no good for them.

His warning continued: "If you allow yourselves to be circumcised, then you must follow all the Law." His words are stern: "If you try to be made right with God through the Law, then you have left God's grace." The believers were reminded that when they are in Christ, it is not important whether they are circumcised or not. The important thing is faith—the kind of faith that works through love. Paul reminded them that they were running a good race and were obeying the truth that he taught them. However, something happened. They began to listen to someone else and this false teaching was causing confusion. Paul made it clear that he no longer taught about circumcision; he taught about the cause. He wanted the believers to know that God called them to be free—and not free to do whatever they wanted, but free to serve each other with love. The whole of God's law is made complete in this command: "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Being Neighborly

(Part 1)

Kendra and Kendyll were always trying to outdo each other. They had fun trying to do nice things for others. As the school year was coming to an end, Ms. Cunningham gave her class a challenge: *Be neighborly*.

"Kendyll, what do you think we can do to win Ms. C's challenge?" Kendra inquired.

"I'm not sure . . . but we need to think of something. Maybe we can help Mr. Buck cut his grass and assist Ms. Matthews by taking her dog for walks," Kendyll suggested.

"Those are great ideas, but I think we need to think beyond our next-door neighbors," Kendra commented.

"Are you sure that's a good idea? I thought our neighbors were the people next door," Kendyll remarked.

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius



Hello, friends! Nicholas and Cornelius here! Have you ever wondered who your neighbors are? Do you think they are just the people who live next door to you?

Maybe you even consider only those who live in your neighborhood as neighbors.

That's what Kendyll thought as well. Whom do you think the apostle Paul was talking about when he used the word *neighbor*?

Let me give you a hint—he was thinking universally.

Being Neighborly (Part 2)

"That's true, but our neighbors also include those in our community, in our state, and even people all over the world," Kendra explained.

"Wow! That's A LOT of neighbors. Maybe we should begin with our community first," Kendyll suggested.

"That's probably a good idea. I think that with Mom and Dad's help, we can find a way to help in our community," Kendra said.

"I'm sure they will be excited to get involved with this project," Kendyll responded.

"I agree . . . and to be honest, I'm excited, too. I think it's a good idea to be neighborly!" Kendra exclaimed.

"So do I," Kendyll said in agreement.

"Let's hurry up and get home so we can get started," Kendra stated.

Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius



Wow, I never thought about everyone around me as being my neighbor.

That's what *universal* means (all people in the world). Sometimes, people are not easy to love.

They can be mean and say hurtful things. But Paul reminds us to love others just like we love ourselves. In other words, we must treat others like we want to be treated. This week, join Ms. C's challenge and find a way to be neighborly.

Fill and Find: Love One Another

Fill in the blanks of the selected verses with words from today's lesson. Then find those words in the word search. (Challenge: See if you can fill in the blanks without looking back at the Scripture passage.)

It is for _____ that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of _____. . . . Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole _____. . . . You were running a good _____. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? . . . I am _____ in the Lord that you will take no other view. . . . For the entire law is _____ in keeping this one _____: "_____ your _____ as yourself."

Q U T D A D F Y R E V A L S N
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