

DEVOTION:

You 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."

Galatians 5:13–14

Freedom is probably the greatest human desire. Oppressed masses dream about freedom, be it political or social. The poor dream about financial freedom. Our need to be free sometimes leads to questionable actions. It gives birth to freedom fighters, violence, murder, and theft in order to obtain freedom. Often, in our quest for freedom, we have robbed others of their freedom.

The freedom that Paul discusses is a gift from the living God through Christ. It is not something that we obtain, but something which we share through God's grace. To live in this freedom is to love (see Gal. 5:6). The radical nature of this love becomes clear when Paul says that the entire law is summed up in this command. It means that our freedom will never desire or take something that does not belong to us, that we shall live in the truth, that we shall not cause harm, that we will destroy relationships, and that we will respect those who brought us up and cared for us (see Exod. 20:12-17).