

FREE FOR ALL

May 15, 2022

Michael Swartzentruber, Senior Minister



Galatians 3:27-28, 5:13-15

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Paul lifts up categories that often separated people in his day and age, and encouraged the church to a deeper unity. What are some categories that separate and divide us now?
3. Paul does something really curious. Instead of "male or female" Paul uses "and" to remind us of Genesis 1: male *and* female God created them (Genesis 1:27). Why do you think he did that?
4. Paul takes the great summary of Jesus (love God, love your neighbor as yourself), and distills it even more: love neighbor as yourself. What do you think about this as a guide for faith and life?
5. Paul wants the Galatians to embrace their *freedom*. How might this freedom-for-love be counter-cultural even in our freedom-loving culture?

South Elkhorn Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

4343 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington KY 40513

859-223-1433 southelkhorncc.org