

Le Nouvel Esprit:
A Video Series on the Theology of
the Body

TOB 53, General Audience of Jan. 14, 1981

Gal. 5:13-14

- “For you were called to freedom, brothers; only do not use your freedom as a pretext for living according to the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law finds its fullness in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’”
- Observations of the text
 - Discusses the theological doctrine of justification and has ethical content
 - The whole law finds its fullness in the commandment to love
 - There is an appeal here to man’s freedom, to use his freedom in the right way
 - This also means that man can use his freedom wrongly, i.e. to live according to the flesh
 - Freedom must be subordinated to love, for freedom is linked to the commandment to love

More on Human Freedom

- Two kinds of freedom, based on man's faculty of free will

Good Freedom	Bad Freedom
Fullness in love, serve one another	Absence of love, use one another
Life according to the Holy Spirit	Life according to the flesh
Freedom over and mastery of concupiscence	Dominated by concupiscence
Free with the freedom with which Christ has set us free	Enslaved because does not experience the freedom of Christ
Capable of self-gift	Incapable of self-gift
Chooses to do what is morally good	Chooses moral evil

Purity and Impurity

- General meaning
 - Purity: everything morally good is pure
 - Life according to the Holy Spirit
 - Impurity: everything morally evil is impure
 - Life according to the flesh
- Specific meaning
 - Purity: fruits of the Holy Spirit
 - Impurity: works of the flesh

Self-Mastery

- Gal. 5:19-22 lists several sins and virtues
 - Fornication, impurity, licentiousness are contrasted with self-mastery
- Self-mastery
 - Greek is enkrateia
 - Continence of all desires of senses, especially sexual
 - Antithesis to the works of the flesh, drunkenness, and orgies
 - Contains the concepts of continence and temperance
 - The concept of purity is included within the notion of self-mastery
- 1 Thess 4:3-7
 - Purity contributes to sanctification
 - Impurity is antithetical to sanctification
 - More to come in TOB 54

Thank You for Watching

Check out our social media:

Website: <https://www.lenouvelesprit.com/>

Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/lenouvelesprit>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-zwCGTpJ6BeAzza6Xqle_Q

And more: <https://www.lenouvelesprit.com/subscribe>