

Carrying The Torch: By Serving God's Way

September 22, 2013

Vol. 3 Number 34

Galatians 5:13-17

Using This Study

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Willie J. Bolden

Executive Director of
Community and Church
Relations, DTS-Houston

B.S., Biola University,
1980; M.A., Talbot
Theological Seminary, 1992; D. Min.
Southwestern Theological Seminary, 2006.



A graduate of Biola University, Talbot Seminary, and Southwestern Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry degree in Mission and Evangelism, Willie Bolden is an adjunct professor at Dallas Christian College and Dallas Seminary. After planting two churches in California, Willie came to DeSoto, Texas, to found These Are They Community Church, where he is now senior pastor. Willie and his wife, Loretta, have seven children. He is also the founder of W.J. Bolden Ministries.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read Galatians 5:13-17 (NET)

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity to indulge your flesh, but through love serve one another.

¹⁴ For the whole law can be summed up in a single commandment, namely, "***You must love your neighbor as yourself.***"

¹⁵ However, if you continually bite and devour one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ But I say, live by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.

¹⁷ For the flesh has desires that are opposed to the Spirit, and the Spirit has desires that are opposed to the flesh, for these are in opposition to each other, so that you cannot do what you want.

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. When Paul speaks of being free, yet, being a slave, what do you think he means?

2. Can one serve without walking in the Spirit?

3. Why are we naturally disposed to serving people?
4. Why does Paul attach love to service?
5. If you are struggling with loving yourself, can you love and serve others?
6. Why doesn't Paul include service in the list of the Fruits of the Spirit?
7. Evaluate your level of service: is it lacking and why?
8. As a collective church body, do you feel that you are serving each other and the world?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes
