



**ONE  
ANOTHER SERIES**



# **Love Without Biting and Devouring**

**GALATIANS 5:14–15**



**STUDY GUIDE**

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**STUDY GUIDE • ONE ANOTHER SERIES**

Love Without Biting and Devouring • Galatians 5:14–15

**WELCOME:**

Fixing  
Our Focus

**Suggested Icebreaker:**

What do we have in common?

Ask GG members to pair off randomly with each other, and they are supposed to find as many things as they have in common. The pair that finds the most things in common with another person wins.

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**WORSHIP:**

Adoring  
Our God

**Suggested song:**

[Beloved, Let Us Love One Another](#)

# WORD & WALK:

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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### LESSON AIM

1. GG members learn that the highest expression of Christian liberty is love.
2. GG members realize that service of others ought to be the immediate exercise of liberty, not self-satisfaction.

### INTRODUCTION

In verse 13, Paul clarified exactly what kind of “freedom” to which the Galatians are called in Christ: freedom from works of the law, such as circumcision, but not from their obligations to one another. The Galatians should take care not to turn their genuine freedom in Christ into an excuse to indulge the “flesh”—i.e., their selfish, merely human desires. (Paul will clarify what these “works of the flesh” are in 5:19–21). In fact, because of their love for one another, they should consider themselves the others’ slaves.<sup>1</sup>

### Paul taught that love fulfills all the law (v. 14)

The church in Galatia was confused by the Judaizers, who insisted that they should comply with the Law of Moses. Paul taught them that instead of being confused by the laws, they should just focus on love, which is the motivation behind all these laws.

1. Why do you think the apostle Paul brought up the Law and its fulfillment when the Christian is supposedly freed from its obligations?
2. When Paul talked about the fulfillment of the Law, he essentially echoes the summation of Jesus Christ in Matthew 22:37-40, What do you think is the significance of this?
3. Why do you think love for self is the reference point for loving our neighbors?
4. Who do you think our neighbor is?

### Application:

Think of a particular “neighbor” that you are feeling challenged to love as yourself. Try to identify what it is that makes it difficult for you to love them. How can you overcome this difficulty and express love to them?

<sup>1</sup>Douglas Mangum, ed., *Lexham Context Commentary: New Testament, Lexham Context Commentary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2020), Ga 5:7–15.

# WORD & WALK:

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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### **Paul warned them against being consumed by one another (v. 15)**

Paul gave the Galatian church a contrast of what it would look like if they failed to love one another. They would end up going against each other. Not only will they become victims of their fleshly desires (Galatians 5:17, 19) and the devil's schemes (1 Peter 5:8), but they will also face the discipline of God (1 Corinthians 3:16–17).

1. What do you think the phrase “biting and devouring one another” refers to?
2. What comes to mind by the phrase “consume one another”?
3. Why do you think that Christians can be as terrible as unbelievers when it comes to fighting one another?
4. What are the terrible possible consequences of infighting among Christians?

### **Application:**

Think of a brother or sister in Christ with whom you had a major quarrel. What can you do to restore your fellowship with one another?

### **PRAYER ITEM**

Father, help us to love our neighbor as you have commanded us. Help us, through the power of the Spirit, to embody love in all that we say and do. May our love for others, especially believers, demonstrate our salvation in Christ and that we are disciples of Jesus. ■



### **Your feedback is important to us.**

If you used this study guide in leading your growth group, please rate it at <https://bit.ly/GCFSGFeedback>. Thank you!



## **Greenhills Christian Fellowship**

**Know Christ and Make Him Known**

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