

THE CROSS AND PERSECUTION

Galatians 5.7-15

INTRODUCTION

Three things that describe what it means for us to be Christians:

We are called to be free.

We are called to use our freedom to serve on another.

We are called to serve one another in love.

Live this way and meet all God's expectations of you.

But two remarkable comments:

Galatians 5.11: For preaching this, I am persecuted

Galatians 5.7: You were living in this way, but you have turned your back upon it – why?

CALLED BY CHRIST

This freedom is a calling, not a right or a reward.

1. We are called to freedom.

2. We are called to serve one another.

3. We are called to serve one another in love.

SO WHY WAS THERE A PROBLEM?

For preaching a lifeview like this, Paul was persecuted – and we need to ask why.

- **freedom**

- **service**

- **love**

CONCLUSION

It's the cross that's the *answer* and the *problem*

And what of the preacher who insists on a gospel of cross centred and dependent *freedom, service* and *love*? Well, they will say of him as the Jews said of Paul: “**Rid the earth of him! He’s not fit to live!**” (Acts 22.22)