

Sermon Notes | RPC Central Campus
FLY by Randy Riggins
July 12, 2026

Galatians 5:13-16 (HCSB)

13 For you were called to be free, brothers; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh but serve one another through love. 14 For the entire law is fulfilled in one statement: Love your neighbor as yourself. 15 But if you bite and devour one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another. 16 I say then, walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

“Opportunity” Greek is aphormē, lit., a “springboard” or “base of operations.”

The freedom to: live in self-centeredness or live in selflessness.

Examples of the Church consumed with itself:

1. Lying and hypocrisy - Acts 5
2. Complaining and murmuring - Acts 6
3. Accusations of Preferential treatment/racism - Acts 6 & Gal. 2
4. Sexual immorality - I Corinthians 5
5. Suing other members of the church - I Corinthians 6
6. Abusing the Lord's Supper - I Corinthians 11
7. Abusing Spiritual Gifts - I Corinthians 12
8. Lack of Giving - I Corinthians 16:1-2
9. Division among church members - Philippians 2:1-2

Consumed with Christ:

Psalm 69:9	For zeal for your house has consumed me...
Psalm 84:10	Better is one day in your courts than thousands elsewhere...
Hebrews 12:2	fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith
Philippians 3:8	I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

An Example of the Church consumed with Christ:

See illustrations mentioned of Cuba and Belize, team serving in New Orleans

John 13:4-5 (HCSB) *4 He got up from supper, **laid aside His robe, took a towel**, and tied it around Himself. 5 Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him.*

Mark 10:45 (HCSB) *For **EVEN the Son of Man** did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many.”*

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

Philippians 2:5-8 (HCSB)

“Make your own attitude that of Christ Jesus, 6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be used for His own advantage. 7 Instead He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men.

And when He had come as a man in His external form, 8 He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death—even to death on a cross.”

Sermon Discussion Questions

Scripture passages: Galatians 5:13-16, Psalm 69:9, Psalm 84:10, Hebrews 12:2, Philippians 2: 5-8, 3:8

Have different members read the Scriptures above aloud before beginning your group discussion.

Potential Icebreaker: If someone who knows you well had to describe what you're most "consumed" or passionate about right now, what would they say? (It can be serious or lighthearted i.e. —Air conditioning, the World Cup, work, kids/grandkids, a hobby, working out, a home project, your phone, shopping, cleaning, travel/vacation, etc.)

1. Paul says we have been called to freedom, but not to use it as an "opportunity" (springboard) for the flesh. What do you think he means by that? How does Christ's freedom differ from our ideas of freedom? Galatians 5:13-16.
2. We don't often talk about the early church's sin and failures (Acts 5-6; 1 Corinthians 5/6; Philippians 2)... what temptations are most common today? Why? How do we guard against this?
3. Read Acts 2:42-47. Which of these qualities mentioned about the early church would you most like to see grow in our small group, and what might it take for that to happen?
4. Jesus modeled humility by laying aside His robe and taking up a towel. What else does Jesus teach us about the priorities of life in His Kingdom? John 13:4-5, Mark 10:45, and Philippians 2:5-8.
5. What practical habits help you stay focused on Christ and sensitive to the Holy Spirit throughout your week? What tends to distract or pull your attention away? Galatians 5:16
6. Randy challenged us to go from "Be" to "Do." Why is it important that our actions flow from who we are becoming in Christ rather than simply trying to do more? What is one area where God may be inviting you to become more like Jesus before asking you to do something for Him?

For Application & Next Steps:

- Ask the Holy Spirit each morning, "Lord, who can I serve today?" Look for one intentional opportunity each day this week to serve someone with no expectation of recognition or anything in return.
- Before your next gathering, pray for the men/women in your group. Then intentionally encourage one person with a phone call, text, note, or simple act of kindness as a tangible expression of Christ's love. (Note: men please reach out to men/women reach out to women)
- If you haven't yet found a place to serve or volunteer – text YES to 97891 to get more info on opportunities to serve in Next Gen ministry
- Considering helping support our mission team headed to Cuba – by collecting a couple used suitcases or getting some essentials as a family or small group to send down with our team!