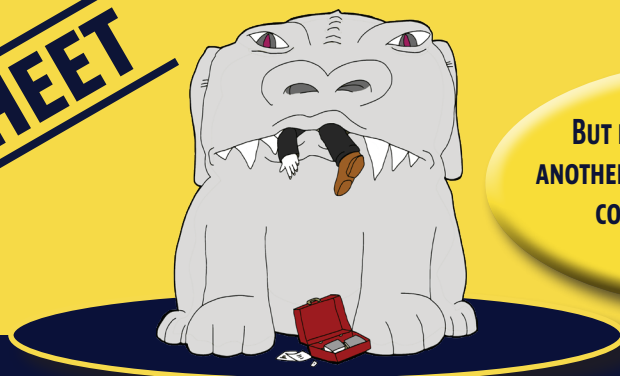


DATA SHEET



BUT IF YOU BITE AND DEVOUR ONE ANOTHER, WATCH OUT THAT YOU ARE NOT CONSUMED BY ONE ANOTHER.

DEFINING TERMS

Called / opportunity / flesh / love / serve / bite and devour / watch out / consume ...

- (Galatians 5:13–15 ESV) For you were **called** to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an **opportunity** for the **flesh**, but through **love serve** one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself.” 15 But if you **bite** and **devour** one another, **watch out** that you are not **consumed** by one another.

CALLED ... To call is to command or request to come; to summon; to speak in a loud, distinct voice so as to be heard at a distance.

2564 **καλέω** [kal·eh·o/]: to call. 1A to call aloud, utter in a loud voice. 1B to invite. 2 to call i.e. to name, by name. 2A to give a name to. 2A1 to receive the name of, receive as a name. 2A2 to give some name to one, call his name. [Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.]

OPPORTUNITY ... An opportunity is a set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something; a favorable or advantageous circumstance; an appropriate or favorable time or occasion.

The Greek word here translated ‘opportunity’ (aphormē) is used in military contexts for a place from which an offensive is launched, a base of operations. Thus our freedom in Christ is **not to be used as a pretext for self-indulgence.** [Stott, J. R. W. (1986). *The message of Galatians: Only one way* (p. 140). Leicester, England; Downer’s Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.]

874 **ἀφορμή** [af·or·may/]: a place from which a movement or attack is made, a base of operations. 2 metaphorically that by which endeavor is excited and from which it goes forth. 2A that which gives occasion and supplies matter for an undertaking, the incentive. [Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.]

***Christian freedom is freedom from sin, not freedom to sin. It is an unrestricted liberty of approach to God as His children, not an unrestricted liberty to wallow in our own selfishness. [Stott, J. R. W. (1986). *The message of Galatians: Only one way* (p. 140). Leicester, England; Downer’s Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.]

FLESH ... (see below).

4561 **σάρξ** [sarx]: flesh (the soft substance of the living body, which covers the bones and is permeated

with blood) of both man and beasts; the body; the sensuous nature of man. [Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.]

The range of meanings borne by this term in the Bible starts from the literal use denoting the material of which the human body is chiefly constructed, but quickly takes on other senses derived from the writers’ understanding of the created order and its relation to God. Careful attention to context is needed to catch the precise nuance in any given case. [Flesh - Baker’s *Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*.]

Charles Pope ... There are many references to “the flesh” in New Testament Scripture, especially in the letters of St. Paul. The phrase confuses some who think it synonymous with the physical body. It is true that there are many times when Scripture uses the word “flesh” to refer to the physical body. However when the definite article “the” is placed before the word “flesh” we are dealing with something else. Only very rarely does the Biblical phrase “the flesh” refer only to the physical body.

What then is meant by the term “the flesh”? Perhaps most plainly it refers to that part of us that is alienated from God. It is the rebellious, unruly and obstinate part of our inner self that is operative all the time. It is that part of us that does not want to be told what to do. It is stubborn, refuses correction, and does not want to have a thing to do with God. It bristles at limits and rules. It recoils at anything that might cause me to be diminished or something less than the center of the universe. The flesh hates to be under authority or to have to yield to anything other than its own wishes and desires. [What Does the Bible Mean by “the Flesh”? Msgr. Charles Pope • March 17, 2011 <http://blog.adw.org/2011/03/what-does-the-bible-mean-by-the-flesh/>]

LOVE ... (see below).

26 **ἀγάπη** [ag·ah·pay/]: brotherly love, affection, good will, love, benevolence. [Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.]

LOVE GOD FIRST AND FOREMOST ...

- (Matthew 22:35–40 ESV) And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all

your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment. 39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US ...

- (1 John 4:19 ESV) We love because he first loved us.

LAY DOWN OUR LIVES FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST ...

- (John 10:11 ESV) I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- (1 John 3:16 ESV) By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.

SERVE ... To serve is to perform duties or services for another; to render assistance; be of use; help.

1398 **δουλεύω** [dool-yoo-o/]: to be a slave, serve, do service. 1A of a nation in subjection to other nations. 2 metaphorically to obey, submit to. 2A in a good sense, to yield obedience. 2B in a bad sense, of those who become slaves to some base power, to yield to, give one's self up to. [*Ibid.*]

We are to “slave” for one another. See above note on δουλεύω.

HOW DOES LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR FULFILL THE LAW IN ONE WORD (OR STATEMENT)?

We fulfill God's highest moral purpose—the love of God—by living in his love and being directed by his love toward the people around us. Think about it. He gave us his words so that we would be like him. Our hearts should explode in praise and thanks.

- (Genesis 1:27 ESV) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
- (Colossians 3:10 ESV) And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- (Ephesians 1:4a ESV) Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.
- (1 Peter 1:14–16 ESV) As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

He gave us his words and his Spirit that we may be transformed into the image of his Son. God's words teach us how to live like God. **When we love as he calls us to love, we “get it”—we understand his purpose in giving the law and the prophets.**

- (Romans 13:9–10 ESV) For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
- (James 2:8–10, 13 ESV) If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole

law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. ... 13 For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

- (Leviticus 19:17–18 ESV) You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. 18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.
- (Leviticus 19:17–18 The Message) Don't secretly hate your neighbor. If you have something against him, get it out into the open; otherwise you are an accomplice in his guilt. 18 Don't seek revenge or carry a grudge against any of your people. Love your neighbor as yourself. I am GOD.

BITE ... To bite is to seize especially with teeth or jaws; to cut, wound, or tear with the teeth; to grip or hold with the teeth; use the teeth to hurt or injure.

1143 **δάκνω** [dakno /dak-no/] v. A prolonged form of a primary root; GK 1231; AV translates as “bite” once. 1 to bite with the teeth. 2 metaph., to wound the soul, cut lacerate, rend with reproaches. [*Ibid.*]

Do we sometimes bite because we hate our brother or sister in our heart and do not speak openly to them, neither reasoning or rebuking?

DEVOUR ... To devour is to swallow or eat up hungrily, voraciously, or ravenously; to consume destructively, recklessly, or wantonly; to eat greedily and hungrily.

2719 **κατεσθίω** [kat-es-thee-o/]: to consume by eating, to eat up, devour. 2 metaphorically to devour, i.e. squander, waste: substance. 2B to devour i.e. forcibly appropriate: widows' property. 2C to strip one of his goods. 1C1 to ruin (by the infliction of injuries). 2D by fire, to devour i.e. to utterly consume, destroy. 2E of the consumption of the strength of body and mind by strong emotions. [*Ibid.*]

WATCH OUT ... To watch out is to look or observe attentively or carefully; to be closely observant; to be vigilant or alert; to be on the lookout; to be careful or cautious; to look or wait attentively and expectantly.

991 **βλέπω** [blep-o/]: to see, discern, of the bodily eye. 1A with the bodily eye: to be possessed of sight, have the power of seeing. 1B perceive by the use of the eyes: to see, look descry. 1C to turn the eyes to anything: to look at, look upon, gaze at. 1D to perceive by the senses, to feel. 1E to discover by use, to know by experience. 2 metaphorically to see with the mind's eye. 2A to have (the power of) understanding. 2B to discern mentally, observe, perceive, discover, understand. 2C to turn the thoughts or direct the mind to a thing, to consider, contemplate, to look at, to weigh carefully, examine. [*Ibid.*]

CONSUME ... To consume is to do away with completely; to destroy or expend by use; use up.

355 **ἀναλίσκω** [an-al-is-ko/]: to expend. 1A to consume, e.g. spend money. 2 to consume, use up, destroy. [*Ibid.*]

How would we consume one another then? We bite and pick at someone until we use them up, until they have nothing left.