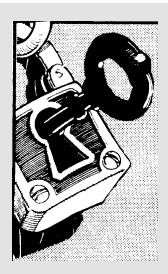


Liberty in Christ

"Since All Your Sins Are Forgiven, Are you Free To Do As You Please?"



The New Testament clearly states that as a saved person you are no longer bound by any law to please God, but instead you are under His grace. However, some Christians take this freedom as an opportunity to sin, not understanding the responsibilities that accompany Christian liberty.

The purpose of this lesson is to acquaint you with a basic understanding of one of the benefits of salvation—liberty. Christian liberty is one of the great teachings of the New Testament that must be understood in order to be enjoyed.

Copyright 1994 (This book revised August, 1997)
3rd Printing—September, 1999
4th Printing—December 2000
5th Printing—December 2001
6th Printing—March 2005

New King James Version

Faith Baptist Church 700 N. Main St., Sellersville, PA 18960 No part of this material may be reproduced without written permission.

INTRODUCTION

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8:32

"Therefore, if the Son makes you **free**, you shall be **free** indeed." John 8:36

Liberty! Freedom! That is what we have as children of God through salvation. It enables us to enjoy our relationship with Jesus Christ since He has removed those things that kept us in bondage.

However, liberty is never free; it always comes at great expense. As citizens of America, our liberty cost a great deal since men and women gave their lives that we might be free. Neither is our liberty as Christians free; it was paid for with the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Liberty also involves responsibility. Those who have the privilege of freedom have the responsibility not to misuse or abuse those liberties they possess. In fact, within our society there are people in jail who have lost their liberty because they misused or abused it. As Christians we have liberty which we are responsible to use properly and without abuse. The misuse of our liberty will always bring us into bondage.

In this lesson we will learn about Christian liberty. It is important that we meditate carefully on these truths so we can learn our responsibilities in relation to our liberty. Then, we need to live free and enjoy being a child of God while maintaining a loving relationship with Jesus Christ and willingly obeying the Word of God.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN LIBERTY?

Freedom from sin.

ccu	om mom sm.
1.	According to Galatians 5:1, who made you free?
2.	From the following verses, jot down what produces bondage. John 8:34
	Romans 6:17
	Romans 6:22
3.	According to Romans 6:18, what took place in your life when you trusted Christ as Savior?

- 4. From the truths of Romans 6:22,
 - a. What are you now in relation to God?
 - b. What can you produce with your life?

Freedom comes when we trust Christ as our personal Savior. The sin nature that lies within every individual, which prevents us from producing fruit unto God, now can be overcome because its power has been broken. The Bible refers to this overcoming as having been set free. We are freed from the power of sin and we now have all that is needed to serve God. We still possess a sin nature that is capable of sinning, but we have a new nature imparting God's power to live victoriously over sin.

Freedom from the law

- 5. According to Romans 6:14,
 - a. What governed your life prior to salvation?

b. What governs your life now?

Discipleship—Liberty in Christ

6.	 Galatians 3:24 teaches, "the law was our tutor to to Christ" 					
	a.	Did you ever break any of God's laws?				
	b.	Did you know it was wrong?				
	c.	Not being able to keep the law reveals that you were what?				
	d.	Knowing you are a sinner revealed your need of whom? (v. 24)				
7.		cording to Galatians 3:25, do you need the law after you saved?				
8.		a Christian no longer under the law but under grace, es that give you permission to break the law?				

- 9. Read carefully Galatians 4:1-7.
 - a. Based on verse 5, when you were redeemed (saved) what took place?
 - b. According to verse 7,
 - 1) What are you?
 - 2) To whose family do you belong?

This concept of liberty is designed so we can grow as a Christian. Freedom enables us to:

Overcome sin...

Grow in grace...

Enjoy our relationship as a child of God.

So, as Christians who have been set free, our choices should reflect our relationship as a child of God, our growth in grace as a Christian, and God's power in us to overcome sin.

HOW SHOULD WE USE OUR LIBERTY?

The Bible gives guidelines or principles that will help us make our choices and decisions. It is true we have freedom to make choices, but we also need to consider our responsibility in making those choices. Our choices affect ourselves and many people around us. Therefore, we must use liberty carefully and with a great deal of responsibility.

Romans 14:1-15:13 gives several principles that will provide guidelines to help you make your choices.

- 1. Read Romans 14:1 carefully.
 - a. Note the phrase about doubtful things.

KJV—"doubtful disputations"

NKJV—"disputes over doubtful things"

- b. Doubtful things are those things that the Bible does not make a direct statement of right or wrong.
- 2. What is one of the doubtful things in Romans 14:2?

3. From what is taught in Romans 14:2, explain Christian liberty.

- 4. Romans 14:3 gives two commands.
 - a. What are they?
 - b. Explain them.
- 5. Based on Romans 14:2-3, would you agree with these statements?

As a Christian, I have liberty to choose in doubtful things.

Yes or No

As a Christian, I should extend liberty to other Christians to choose in doubtful areas.

Yes or No

6. Read Romans 14:5-10 and summarize what is taught.

Discipleship—Liberty in Christ

7. According to Romans 14:12, to whom are you accountable with your choices?
8. According to Romans 14:14-15, in areas of liberty, who are you to consider as you make choices?
9. According to Romans 14:19, what should be the result of your choices?
10. According to Romans 14:20-21, what takes place when you become careless in your choices?
It is impossible to please all people all the time. In fact, it is impossible to please most of the people most of the time. But we need to exercise consideration as we make our choices so as not to hurt a brother or sister deliberately.

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

1. Are you free to do whatever you want?

Romans 15:1-2

Liberty says "yes"; loves "chooses carefully." Where you have liberty always make choices carefully and with consideration, realizing your choices affect others.

2. Are you better than others because of what you choose?

I Corinthians 8:8

No! Never think you are more spiritual than another Christian because of your choices.

3. How should you respond when others choose differently than you?

Romans 15:7

Galatians 5:13-14

Not everyone's choices will be the same. Respect the right of others to make their choices just as they should respect our choices. We may not agree, but we can show respect.

CONCLUSION

Christian liberty is one of the many benefits of being a Christian. Many abuse liberty and live carelessly before others. Some misuse Christian liberty by thinking they are better because of their choices.

We need to walk with God and to make choices carefully when God grants liberty so we can enjoy the freedom God has given us.

Remember, we will not answer to others Christians, but we are accountable to Jesus Christ. We need to make our choices based on our walk with Jesus Christ to whom we must answer.

Enjoy your liberty!

Use it carefully!

Memory Verse Galatians 5:1



Write down any questions you may have regarding this lesson.