

A Study on Christian Liberty

1. Christian liberty has multiple facets that empower believers to become more Christlike.
 - a. Upon redemption the Christian is set free from the penalty sin. (John 8:31-36, Rom 8:1-2)
 - i. This is due to the work of Jesus Christ who paid the penalty for us on the cross. Otherwise known as substitutionary atonement. (1 Pet 2:24)
 - ii. Through faith in Christ we have been reconciled to God which grants us freedom from the guilt of our sins and allows us to experience true peace. (Rom 5:1, 2 Cor 5:17-19, Col 1:19-22, John 14:27, Psa 119:165)
 - b. We are also set free from the power of sin over our lives. (Rom 6:5-11, Col 1:13)
 - i. This is due to the life of Christ within us as well as the work of regeneration where God gives us a new heart that loves His law and righteousness. (Gal 2:20, Eze 36:26-27)
 - ii. Unfortunately this does not eliminate the possibility that a Christian will continue to sin. (Rom 6:12, 7:15-23)
 - c. Believers, whether Jew or Gentile, are freed from the demands of the law (Rom 10:4, Gal 3:24-25).
 - i. Again, this is due to the work of Jesus, who perfectly fulfilled the law in every aspect. (Mat 5:17, 2 Cor 5:21, Heb 4:15,)
 - ii. Believers are no longer bound to uphold the law in order to enter heaven and receive eternal life because Jesus fulfilled the law in our place. And when we put our faith in Him, and identify with Him, He grants us His righteousness, (imputed righteousness). (Rom 5:19, 6:3-4, 7:1-6)
 - iii. Question: If Christ didn't abolish the law, why or how are we no longer bound to it?
 - iv. Question: If the penalty for sin has been removed, does this mean we are allowed to sin?

- d. What the Bible has not explicitly forbidden, believers are free to exercise their own conscience.
- i. This liberty is to be used for the glory of God and not to serve yourself. Even if something is not forbidden by Scripture or inherently sinful, we ought to use wisdom and temperance in all things. (1 Cor 10:23-24, 31-33)
 - ii. Your freedom could lead to temptation in another believer, (Rom, 14:13, 1 Cor 8:9) or even ruin your testimony with unbelievers.(1 Cor 10:27-28)
 - iii. As a warning, this does not excuse sin due to a lack of diligence or willful ignorance. If you believe something is a sin, it is a sin to you.
 - iv. Question: If someone tells you it is not a sin to do something you believe is a sin, how should you proceed? (Rom 14:14, 23)
 - v. This liberty can and has caused conflicts within the church, but we must remember we belong to Christ and He is the ultimate judge. (Rom 14:2-4)
 - vi. There is never a reason to flaunt your freedom and every reason no to (Romans 14:22).
 - vii. If someone is offended by the exercise of your freedom, how should you proceed? (Rom 14:19-21)
 - viii. A word of caution to avoid excessive promotion of liberty or restriction thereof. The former can lead to an undisciplined lifestyle while the latter can lead to a legalistic mindframe.
 - ix. “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Gal 5:13-14).”