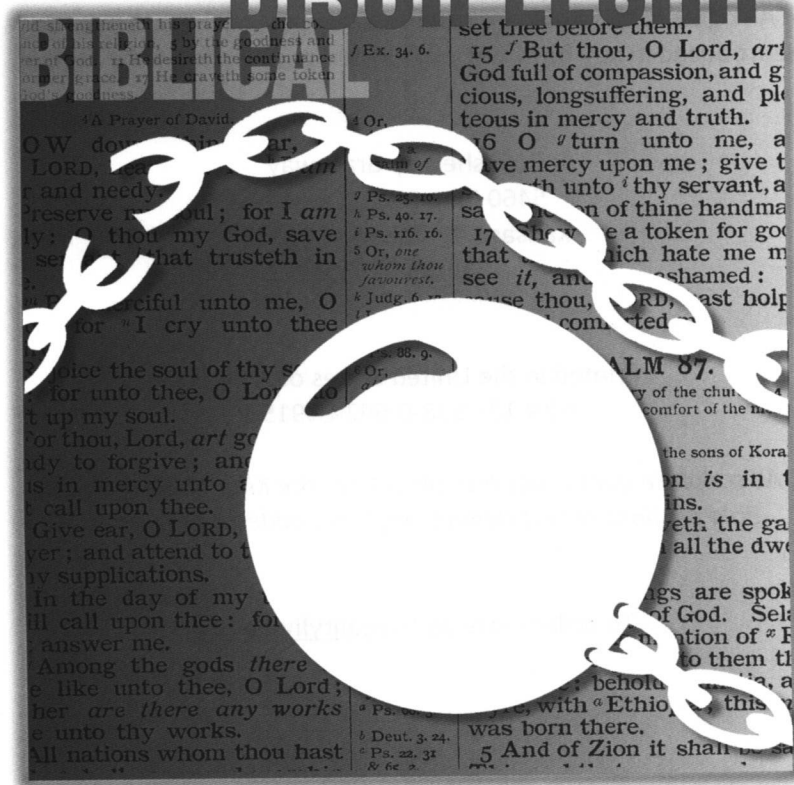


LIBERTY IN CHRIST

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DISCIPLESHIP





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LESSON 13: LIBERTY IN CHRIST

“Since All My Sins Are Forgiven, Am I Free to Do As I Please?”

The New Testament is very clear that as saved people you are no longer bound by law to please God. You are now under His grace. Many people, however, take this freedom as an opportunity to sin, thinking they are free to do as they wish.

The purpose of this lesson is to help you understand just what your liberties in Jesus Christ are and what lines need to be drawn in your life in relation to your actions as a child of God.

I. Your freedom is liberty to do God’s will, not license to sin.

John 8:36

* A. You are free from the Old Testament law to do what is right, not what you want.

Romans 6:12-18, 8:2; Galatians 3:24-25

1. Your liberty is not so you can feed your sinful flesh.

Galatians 5:13

2. Your liberty is so you can serve God.

1 Peter 2:16

B. You are free to make your own choices.

1. Good decisions should be made from a pure heart exercising faith in God's Word.

Romans 14:22; Titus 1:15

2. Bad decisions will certainly bring consequences, but will not result in loss of your salvation.

You are eternally secure in Jesus Christ. If you have genuinely placed your trust in Him as your Savior, you cannot go to hell. You will go to heaven regardless of what you do and whether you like it or not.

Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9

II. Your freedom has consequences for your personal life.

A. Your choice to sin brings consequences.

1. You will not bear fruit.

John 15:1-8

2. You will be chastened as God's child.

Hebrews 12:5-11

3. You will reap as you have sown.

Galatians 6:7-8

- B. Your choice to obey God brings consequences.

1. You will reap holiness.

Romans 6:22

2. You will reap glory.

Romans 8:12-18

3. You will reap fruits of righteousness.

Philippians 1:9-11

4. You will reap as you have sown.

Galatians 6:7-8; Ephesians 6:7-8

- C. Your choice will result in glory to God one way or another. You will be either a vessel of honor or dishonor. The choice is yours.

II Timothy 2:20-21

III. Your freedom has consequences for those around you.

- A. You are a testimony for good or for bad whether you want to be or not.

Romans 14:7

- B. You are to avoid things which could cause a weaker Christian to stumble in his faith.

Romans 14:13-15; I Corinthians 8:9-13

- C. You are to avoid things which appear wrong even though they may not be wrong.

Romans 14:16; I Thessalonians 5:22

- D. You are to have a good testimony toward both saved and lost people. *Romans 14:18*

1. To the saved.

Acts 6:1-3, 16:1-2

2. To the lost.

Colossians 4:5; I Timothy 3:7

3. The purpose of this is to influence them for good in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 11:22-24; I Corinthians 9:19-23

IV. Your freedom has biblical boundaries.

A. Some boundaries are clearly defined.

1. In relation to God.

Matthew 22:37-38

2. In relation to parents.

Ephesians 6:1-3

3. In relation to others.

Romans 13:8-9

B. Some boundaries are not so clearly defined.

Even in so-called “gray areas,” you can determine biblical boundaries through the application of God’s Word. From a practical standpoint, you can do this by asking yourself questions based on biblical truth.

1. Am I being brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life?

I Corinthians 6:12

2. Am I edifying myself or others?

I Corinthians 10:23

3. Can I ask God to bless it with a clear conscience?

Colossians 3:17; Acts 24:16

4. If the Lord returned at this moment, would I be ashamed?

I Corinthians 1:8; I Thessalonians 5:23

5. Would it cause a brother to stumble?

Romans 14:13-15; Romans 15:1-2

6. Would it be cause for a lost person to reject the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior?

I Corinthians 10:31-33

7. Does my conscience condemn me for it?

I Peter 3:16; Hebrews 13:18; I Timothy 1:5

8. What is good or right about this thing that I would allow in my life?

Philippians 4:8; Romans 14:23

- V. Basic question: How do I achieve a balance between my liberties and other people's needs?

You can achieve that balance ONLY through the power of the Holy Spirit as you walk with Him.

II Corinthians 3:6, 17; Romans 7:6

NOTES

Does my conscience condemn me for my?

1 Peter 3:16; Hebrews 13:18; 1 Timothy 1:2

What is good or right about this thing that I would allow in my life?

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You can achieve that balance ONLY through the power of the Holy Spirit as you walk with Him.

11 Corinthians 3:6, 17; Romans 7:6

LIBERTY IN CHRIST

Lesson #13

1. As a Christian, are you free to do whatever you please?
Briefly explain.

2. The Word of God draws some boundaries on our freedom. Explain those boundaries from each of the following verses.
 - A. *Galatians 5:13*

 - B. *Romans 6:18*

 - C. *I Peter 2:16*

3. When you choose to sin, what are the consequences of your choice?
 - A.

B.

C.

4. God will get the glory from your life, either as a _____ or as

a _____

5. List four ways that your freedom can influence people around you.

A.

B.

C.

D.

6. You are to have a good testimony toward both saved and lost people. What is the reason for this?

7. List eight questions you can consider in setting the bounds of your personal liberty.

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.

H.

8. What is the role of the Holy Spirit regarding your personal liberty?

9. Briefly explain the primary purpose of this lesson.

Key memory verses:
Galatians 5:13; Romans 15:1;
I Corinthians 10:31

NOTE: In many churches today, some popular teachings are:

1. There is a "set of rules" a Christian must live by in order to please God.
2. You are free to do whatever you want regardless of how it affects other people.
3. What you do has no real influence on other people.

From the Bible principles taught in this lesson, you should understand these teachings are false and why.

→ Write any questions you may have concerning the subjects in this lesson.

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