

LESSON 25: DELIGHTING IN CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

Intro:

Big Idea: Christ sets us _____ to walk in _____.

Liberty Defined!

1. The liberty which Christ has purchased for believers under the gospel consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the curse of the moral law; and, in their being delivered from this present evil world, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin; from the evil of afflictions, the sting of death, the victory of the grave, and everlasting damnation; as also, in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto him, not out of slavish fear, but a childlike love and willing mind. All which were common also to believers under the law. But, under the new testament, the liberty of Christians is further enlarged, in their freedom from the yoke of the ceremonial law, to which the Jewish church was subjected; and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of.

- The gospel provides freedom from _____ but we continue to _____ daily.
- We are free from the _____ wrath of God since Jesus bore that wrath for us.
- We are free, delivered from, this present evil age or _____ through the gospel.
- Our _____ to Satan has ended because we've been made _____ in Christ.
- Christians are no longer under the dominion, or rule, of _____ since we died w/Christ.
- Being in Christ, we are no longer condemned so have no fear of _____.
- Positively, Christian liberty includes _____ to the Father in prayer & worship.
- We are free from _____ fear to obey as loving sons wanting to please the Father.
- Under the new covenant, we have also been freed from the _____ law.
- We have the Spirit _____ in us, which was only promised in the Old Covenant.

⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ... ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. **Romans 6**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **Romans 8**
... ⁴who gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ... **Galatians 1**

¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ... **Colossians 1**

To Glorify and Enjoy God

“Christ does not grant to believers an entire exemption from the troubles that are common to men, but he frees them from all the penal evil of afflictions. The cup of their affliction may be large and deep, but there is not one drop of judicial wrath mingled in it.” **Robert Shaw**²⁶⁸

2. God alone is Lord of the conscience, and has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are, in anything, contrary to his Word; or beside it, if matters of faith, or worship. So that, to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands, out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience: and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.

- God, and God alone, is Lord of the _____.
- He exercises His lordship over the conscience through the _____ of _____.
- The doctrines, or _____ of men, are not binding on the consciences of others.
- Rome (and EO) place _____ on the same level as Scripture & bind men by it.
- The _____ here is “matters of faith or worship.” They are bound of Scripture.
- Sin & _____ are defined by God in Scripture, and not free to our scruples.
- We are not to believe extra-biblical _____ or obey extra-biblical commands.
- To give someone such power over our conscience is to destroy _____ & reason.

“God has the inherent right to impose obligations upon us and to compel us to obey his commands.” **R.C. Sproul**²⁶⁹

“Our conscience can lie to us. Our conscience can excuse what it ought to accuse, and approve what it ought to disapprove.” **R.C. Sproul**²⁷⁰

“Where God has left us free, we must be careful not to usurp his authority and take away from people the freedom that he has given.” **R.C. Sproul**²⁷¹

“The design of the words is, to teach the subordination of all human power to the sovereignty and laws of God, particularly in matters of faith and worship.” **Robert Shaw**²⁷²

3. They who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, do practice any sin, or cherish any lust, do thereby destroy the end of Christian liberty, which is, that being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

- Christian liberty is not the freedom to _____, nor freedom to cherish our _____.
- Pursuit of sin, as if freedom, destroys our liberty by putting us back in _____.
- Liberty isn't _____ (or _____).

²⁶⁸ Shaw, pp. 201.

²⁶⁹ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 288.

²⁷⁰ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 289.

²⁷¹ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 293.

²⁷² Shaw, pp. 207.

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- Christ sets us free to pursue _____ & righteousness in this evil age.

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ...²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. **Romans 14**

- This covers *adiaphora* or things _____.
- We tend to _____, passing judgment or _____ one another.
- We should _____ one another; not force our _____ on each other.
- To do something you _____ is wrong is wrong since you act in _____.
- To commit a sin because you think it isn't a sin doesn't take away its _____.

“The stumbling block is put in the way most frequently when the weaker brother tries to legislate his position for others.” **R.C. Sproul**²⁷³

4. And because the powers which God has ordained, and the liberty which Christ has purchased, are not intended by God to destroy, but mutually to uphold and preserve one another, they who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, shall oppose any lawful power, or the lawful exercise of it, whether it be civil or ecclesiastical, resist the ordinance of God. And, for their publishing of such opinions, or maintaining of such practices, as are contrary to the light of nature, or to the known principles of Christianity (whether concerning faith, worship, or conversation), or to the power of godliness; or, such erroneous opinions or practices, as either in their own nature, or in the manner of publishing or maintaining them, are destructive to the external peace and order which Christ has established in the church, they may lawfully be called to account, and proceeded against, by the censures of the church.

- Church & civil authority are intended to uphold & preserve liberty. Respects _____.
- Liberty is to _____ & preserve church & civil _____.
- Christian liberty isn't justification to oppose lawful _____ used lawfully.
- Christian liberty does not grant the right of _____, to destroy peace & order.
- Church discipline can be _____ against those who _____ sin.

“The church is derelict when it fails to discipline those who promote erroneous opinions or engage in erroneous practices in the name of Christian liberty.” **R.C. Sproul**²⁷⁴

²⁷³ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 298.

²⁷⁴ Sproul, Vol. 2, pp. 306.

To Glorify and Enjoy God

How does this help you to glorify and enjoy God?²⁷⁵

Conclusion:

²⁷⁵ You may want to consider reading *Glorious Freedom* by Richard Sibbes.