

Glad Tidings

Romans 10:15

June 6, 2021



The Christian's Liberty

The Lesson Text

Rom. 14: 13-23

13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge ye this rather, that no man put a stumbling-block in his brother's way, or an occasion of falling.

14 I know, and am persuaded in the Lord Jē-sūs, that nothing is unclean of itself: save that to him who accounteth anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

15 For if because of meat thy brother is grieved, thou walkest no longer in love. Destroy not with thy meat him for whom Christ died.

16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 For he that herein serveth Christ is well-pleasing to God, and approved of men.

19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

20 Overthrow not for meat's sake the work of God. All things indeed are clean; howbeit it is evil for that man who eateth with offence.

21 It is good not to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor to *do anything* whereby thy brother stumbleth.

22 The faith which thou hast, have thou to thyself before God. Happy is he that judgeth not himself in that which he approveth.

23 But he that doubteth is condemned if he eat, because *he eateth* not of faith; and whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

GOLDEN TEXT.—“*All things are lawful; but not all things edify.*” (1 Cor. 10: 23b.)

Today we seem to be faced with much outcry as to our liberty or freedom to be “who we are” without regard for how one’s conduct may affect others. This brings about much conflict and anxiety among peoples, and Christians as well. For the >>>>

Christian, this presents a challenge as we attempt to live in the society or culture where we find ourselves. What do the scriptures teach regarding what “Liberty truly means for the Christian?”

First, liberty means “freedom from external restraint or compulsion.” (Webster.) There can be no such thing as absolute liberty as long as we live in any given society. The rights of others must be taken into consideration. When one fails to take into consideration of others, we say he is abusing his liberty, and this is license rather than liberty. In America we say that we live in a land of liberty, yet there are many laws to regulate this free people. So liberty does not mean that there are no laws of restraint or compulsion. In the spiritual, we have liberty in Christ, but that does not mean that there are no laws to regulate our life in Christ. It is not in man that walks to direct his steps (Jer. 10:23), hence we must look to God for direction in our work, worship, and service to God.

There are essentials, matters of principle, based upon the nature of Christianity and the authority of Christ, about which we have no choice if we desire to follow Him. They are taught either by direct commandment, approved apostolic example, or things necessarily inferred by the context. These are conditions of our salvation and continued acceptance with God. Then there are incidentals or matters of expediency, which we may do or not, or we may do this way or that, without affecting our relationship with the Lord. With reference to the essentials we must obey regardless of what effect it may have on others. However, with respect to the latter we may, and should, order our conduct in deference to the wishes and consciences of others. Though we may feel that we have the right and liberty to follow one course or another, it may be best for the salvation of a soul, or the peace of a congregation, to follow another course. Proper love and consideration for our fellowman will determine the course we are to follow. To indulge in the enjoyment of a liberty which causes another to be lost is to manifest a brand of selfishness and lack of love for humanity which is inconsistent with the example of



Christ and the fundamental principles of His teachings. Paul became all things to all men that he might win some. (I Cor. 9:19-23.) Perhaps he was acting on this principle when he was purifying himself in the temple in Jerusalem. (Acts 21:23, 24.) Yet he refused to compromise a principle of the truth at Antioch when both Peter and Barnabas were carried away by the influence of those from Jerusalem. (Gal. 2:11)

Let us follow the things that lead to true liberty and peace in Christ.

Some other passages to consider:

Liberty from bondage to Law—Gal. 4:1-11

For freedom Christ set us free—Gal. 5:1-15

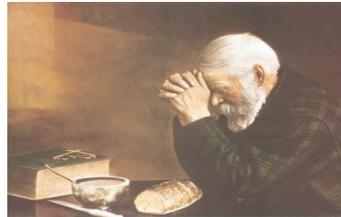
Liberty is found in obedience—John 8:31-42

Steve Frazier

A Neglected Knee

Copied

A noted lecturer stated that he received his moral training at the knee of his devout mother and across the knee of a determined father. In this generation it seems that both knees are much neglected.



Hard Command?

What did Jesus mean when he said “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness;” (Matt. 6:33)? The one talent man knew his Lord only as a “hard man”. Putting the Lord and His kingdom first can bring persecution (2 Tim. 2:3; 3:11, 12). Choices must be made that affect family relationships, job opportunities, and leisure time activities such as recreation and sports. Do you put the kingdom first? Is the Lord a “hard man” to you because He commands you to put the kingdom first? None of His commands are impossible or grievous (1John 5:3). If they seem like it to us there must be something lacking in our love.

Kenneth Frazier



Hymn for the day:

“Others” (vss. 1 & 2) Charles D. Meigs (1902)

Lord, help me live from day to day

In such a self forgetful way

That even when I kneel to pray

My prayer shall be for others.

Help me in all the work I do

To ever be sincere and true

And know that all I'd do for You

Must needs be done for others.

Chorus:

*Others, Lord, yes others, Let this my motto be. Help
me to live for others, That I may live like Thee.*

Order of Worship June 6, 2021

Song Leader—AM	Gary Barber
Song Leader—PM	Michael Young
Lord's Table	Phillip Steen
Sermon—AM	Devin Barber
Sermon—PM	Devin Barber

Continue prayers for those on our list, and for the free course of the gospel.

1 John 5:14

Editor: Steve Frazier

Marietta church of Christ

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Meeting times of the church

Sunday 09:00 am Bible Classes 10:00 am Worship 05:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

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Hebrews 10:24-25