

The Journey of Faith

Session 13



Liberty in Christ

Teaching Chart

SESSION 13: LIBERTY IN CHRIST

WHEN CULTURES/BACKGROUNDS COLLIDE

There are some issues where the Bible is very clear. We call these “black and white areas.” There can be no debate about what God has clearly revealed. However, the Bible does not address every issue. We call these “gray areas.” Christians and churches often divide over “gray areas.”

What is Liberty in Christ?

Freedom from the Penalty of Sin (Romans 6:23)

Freedom from the Power of Sin (Romans 6:1-2)

Freedom from the Law of Moses (Romans 3:20)

Freedom to Discern Social Issues (Romans 14)

Types of Law

Moral – relates to moral conduct (operational)

OT Ceremonial – relates to customs of the nation (ceased)

OT Judicial – relates to order and restitution (ceased)

NT Man Made – traditions of men (Matthew 15:1-9)

One who is Weak in the Faith – a person whose conscience is bothered by certain social issues

One who is Strong in the Faith – a person whose conscience is not bothered by certain social issues

How to Determine Gray Areas -

Don't Judge (Romans 14:1-6)

Don't Hinder (Romans 14:13-21)

Don't Flaunt (Romans 14:22-23)

Lesson

- Overview:** Some Christians believe that since God has forgiven or forgives sin, they are free to do whatever they want, including sin. However, the New Testament clearly spells out that although a Christian is no longer bound by the Mosaic Law of the Old Testament, he or she is responsible to obey the commands and principles expressed in the entire Bible. Yes, it is true that you were saved by grace, but you must understand the importance and meaning of true freedom in Christ.
- Purpose:** To guide Christians about their liberty in Christ
- Verses:** (John 8:36) So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
(Romans 6:1-2) What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
(Romans 6:14) For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

- I. What does freedom or liberty in Christ mean?
- A. Since you have been saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, you are not required to follow the Old Testament law (ceremonial laws – animal sacrifices, priests, tabernacles, etc.); however, the moral law is reinstated in the New Testament for every believer to follow (morality, obedience, holiness, etc.).
(Galatians 3:23-25)
- B. Liberty is not freedom to sin, but freedom from sin.
(Galatians 5:13)
1. You should not use forgiveness of sin as a “license” to sin.
 2. Use your liberty to serve others.
 3. Use your liberty to serve God.
(1 Peter 2:16)
- II. Does liberty in Christ allow me to make my own choices?
- A. Yes! Keep in mind that good decisions will be made using principles from God’s Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- B. Bad decisions will lead to consequences, but will not take away your salvation.
1. When you choose to sin, you are not pleasing God.
 2. When you choose to sin, God will discipline you.
(Hebrews 12:6)
 3. When you choose to sin, you must deal with the consequences.
(Galatians 6:7-8)
 4. When you choose to sin, others will be affected.
- III. How do I handle participating in things that are not clearly defined in the Bible?
- A. The Bible clearly defines many boundaries.
1. Do not worship idols.
(1 John 5:21)
 2. Keep your promises.
(James 5:12)
 3. Obey parents.
(Ephesians 6:1)
 4. Do not murder.
(1 John 3:15)
 5. Do not participate in sexual sin.
(1 Corinthians 6:9)
 6. Do not steal.
(Ephesians 4:28)
 7. Do not lie to someone else.
(Colossians 3:9)
- B. However, there are some boundaries that are not clearly defined in the Bible and each believer is given the freedom to make the decision.
1. The Word of God gives some questions that you should ask yourself before making a decision.
 - a. Am I fully convinced in my conscience that this is right or wrong?
(Romans 14:5)

- b. Is this action causing someone else's conscience to be violated and leading them to fall back into old sins?
(1 Corinthians 8:9)
 - 1) This does not refer to another believer being offended by your decision.
 - 2) Rather, this is speaking of a Christian who chooses to participate in something in the presence of another that leads the other Christian to fall back into old sins.
 - c. Can God be glorified, honored, and thanked through this action?
(Colossians 3:17)
2. Do not judge someone who takes a different view from your own.
(Romans 14:3)

Review

1. Liberty is not freedom _____ sin, but freedom _____ sin.
2. Explain why a Christian should not willfully sin even though he or she will be forgiven.
3. What should Christians use in making decisions?
4. When you choose to sin, what are the consequences?
5. Explain the phrase, "the Bible has clear boundaries."
6. Who makes the decision about an area that is not clearly defined in scripture?
7. When making a decision, what questions should you ask yourself?
8. Explain the difference between offending a believer and causing a believer to sin.
9. Do not _____ someone who takes a different _____ from your own.
10. Briefly describe the purpose of this lesson.

False Teachings

Some churches, organizations, or groups are promoting the following false teachings:

- Every situation in life is clearly defined in the Bible.
- Once you become a Christian, God is not concerned when you sin.
- There is a written set of rules that you must follow to please God.
- All people should think the same when it comes to matters of conscience.