

Our Liberty in Christ Jesus

Galatians 2:1-5

Introduction:3

- A. Liberty in Christ Jesus precious to Paul.
 - 1. Under certain conditions, *voluntarily* forewent some liberty. (cf. 1 Cor. 9:19-23).
 - 2. Resisted efforts to *compel* him or brethren to surrender any liberty.
 - a. Voluntarily had Timothy circumcised to avoid offending Jews. (Acts 16:3).
 - b. Refused to allow Titus to be compelled to be circumcised. (v. 3; Acts 15:1-5)
- B. Liberty in Christ Jesus not absolute — no freedom is absolute.
 - 1. Not free from all law. (Jas. 1:25).
 - 2. Not free from responsibility. (Rom. 6:18).
 - 3. Not free to indulge in works of flesh. (Gal. 5:13).
- C. Liberty in Christ gives us certain freedoms that we ought to cherish and guard.

Discussion:

I. The Freedom to Serve Christ Jesus.

- A. Free from sin. (Rom. 6:1-4; 8:1-3).
- B. Free from requirements of the law of Moses. (Acts 15:1-5, 22-29; Rom. 7:1-6)
- C. Free from demands of human traditions and opinions. (cf. Col. 2:8).

II. The Freedom to Mind One's Own Business. (1 Thess. 4:11)

- A. Have right to teach what Bible says about anyone's personal business.
- B. Have no right to inject selves into nor to try to run another's business (1 Pet. 4:16 ; 2 Thess. 3:11; 1 Tim 5:13).
 - 1. Such meddlers often see themselves as "just concerned" or "trying to help".
 - 2. Such meddlers often "play God" by presuming know another's abilities, opportunities, etc.

III. The Freedom to Grow in the Faith (Rom. 14).

- A. Strong must give weak room to grow (14:1; 15:1-7)
 - 1. In matters of personal understandings of duty to God (vv. 2-6)
 - a. Morally right.
 - b. Individual in application.
 - 2. Show patience and deference to weak, while teaching them (v. 14-23; 15:1)
 - a. Give opportunity to grow out of scruples, rather than try to force them out.
 - b. Be careful in exercise of own liberty so as not drive weak away.
 - c. Recognize that each is accountable only to God in such matters (14:3-5).
- B. Cannot allow personal errors of weak to be bound on whole church.
 - 1. Instrumental music.
 - 2. Support of institutions.
- C. Cannot lump all personal practices into Romans 14.
 - 1. Like those mentioned in 1 Corinthians 5.
 - a. Openly practicing works of flesh.
 - b. Immoral persons in general.
 - c. Adulterous marriages.
 - 2. Like those who teach, even privately, people to commit fornication. (Rev. 2:20).
 - 3. Like those who walk disorderly. (2 Thess. 3:6).
 - 4. Like those who completely turn from the Lord. (1 Tim. 1:19,20)

Conclusion:

- 1. We become concerned when our freedom in America is threatened.
- 2. Let also become concerned when our freedom in Christ is threatened.