

LESSON 13: LIBERTY IN CHRIST

“Since all my sins are forgiven, am I free to do as I please?”

KEY = CHOOSE RIGHT

The New Testament is very clear that as saved people, we are no longer bound by any law to please God, but we are 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 study is to answer the question “Since all sins are forgiven, am I free to do as I please?” We will 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. My Freedom

A. Personally

Within your own life, you are free to make your own choices. John 8:36 says, *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*

See also: Romans 14:22; Titus 1:15



1. You are eternally secure in Jesus Christ. If you have genuinely placed your trust in Him as your Lord and Savior, you cannot lose your salvation. We entered a relationship with God by a spiritual birth and our relationship is not determined by human accomplishments.

Galatians 2:16 says, *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”*

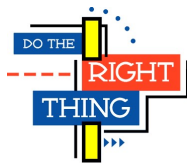
See also: Ephesians 2:8-9

2. You are not bound by the laws of the Old Testament or a “set of rules” to please God. You are to obey a higher law *“...the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus,”* which Romans 8:2 says has set you *“free from the law of sin and death.”*



See also: Galatians 3:24-27

B. To do what I should



The liberty you have in Jesus Christ gives you freedom to do what is RIGHT without the constraints of any laws, as opposed to giving you license to sin or do what you want.

Galatians 5:13 says, *For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*”

1. Your liberty is not so you can feed your sinful flesh. You are no longer a servant to sin (John 8:34).

Romans 6:12-18

2. Your liberty is so you can serve God.

1 Peter 2:16 says, “... *and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.*”

II. The effects of my freedom

As we have already learned, you are free to make your own choices, but if you choose to sin, you should be aware of the consequences.

A. To you personally



1. You will not bear fruit.

John 15:1-8

2. God will chasten you as His son.

Hebrews 12:5-11

3. God will allow you to reap as you have sown.

Galatians 6:7-8 says, “*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap., For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*”

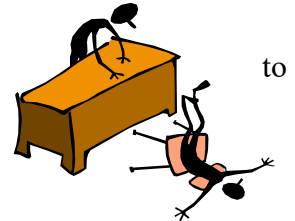
Note: God will get the glory from your life one way or another, either as a vessel of honor, or as a vessel of dishonor. The choice is yours. See 2 Timothy 2:20-21.

B. To those around you

Your life will be a testimony for good or for bad, whether you want it to be or not. Romans 14:7 says, *“For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.”* Remember, *“...ye are not your own...”* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), you represent the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. You are to avoid things that could cause a weaker Christian to stumble in his faith.

Romans 14:13-15, 21; 1 Corinthians 8:9-13



2. You are to avoid things that appear wrong even though they may not be wrong.

Romans 14:16 says, *“Let not then your good be evil spoken of”*

1 Thessalonians 5:22 says, *“Abstain from all appearance of evil.”*



3. Your activities and behavior affects everyone around you, especially the testimony of your local church. Your business, in a sense, becomes the business of every member of your local church!

You are to have a good testimony toward both saved and lost people. Romans 14:18 says, *“For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.”*

- To the saved – Acts 6:1-3, 16:1-2
- To the lost – Colossians 4:5; 1 Timothy 3:7
- The purpose of this is to influence them for good in the Lord Jesus Christ.

To the saved – Acts 11:22-24

To the lost – 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

4. Maintain a balance between your liberty and other people’s needs



- This can ONLY be accomplished through the power of the Holy Spirit as you walk with Him.

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

III. What are the bounds of my liberty?

When faced with the uncertainty of a seemingly “gray area,” ask yourself some questions.

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

1 Corinthians 6:12 says, “*All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*”

B. Am I edifying others?

1 Corinthians 10:23 says, “*All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.*”

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

Acts 24:16 says, “*And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.*”

See also: Colossians 3:17

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

1 Corinthians 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:23



E. Would it cause a brother to stumble?

Romans 15:1-2 says, “*We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.*”

- F. Would it be cause for an unsaved person to reject the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior?

1 Corinthians 10:31-32 says, *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.”* See earlier notations in the study as well.

- G. Does my conscience condemn me for it?

1 Timothy 1:5 says, *“Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned”*

See also: 1 Peter 3:16; Hebrews 13:18

Note: The liberty that God gives you is not questionable. If anything is questionable, it is not from God. James 1:17 says, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”*

IV. Memory Verses

Romans 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.