



Liberties vs. Freedoms

By Johnny Caruso on June 21, 2021

TODAY'S READING: Romans 14

There are certain things I do not take part in because of my background and the things I participated in before I knew Christ. I have the freedom in Christ to do so, but I refrain to protect my testimony.

Paul addresses Christian liberty with respect to those things God has not spoken about explicitly. Believers are free to act according to conscience in areas where scripture is silent. Paul's best-known illustration of this principle is his discussion of meat offered to idols in 1 Corinthians 8. First-century Christians debated whether purchasing and consuming meat sacrificed to idols was okay or whether doing so made the believer somehow affirm and participate in the ceremony. Since pagan gods are in fact not gods at all, Paul said believers could eat the meat without sinning. He also knew that some "weaker" brothers did not understand this truth and their consciences were violated when others ate the meat. Paul said it was better for the stronger person not to eat the meat in question if it would trouble the weaker brother (vv. 13-17).

In verse 2, Paul says each person should follow his conscience when it comes to Christian liberties. The act itself may be insignificant, but to do willingly what one thinks is evil manifests hatred toward God. At the same time, weaker brothers may not forbid others from doing an act about which the Bible is silent; otherwise, they bind the conscience where God has set it free (vs. 3).

Christians must treat one another with love and respect (Philippians 2:3-4). Let us be sensitive to the weaknesses of others, but let us never enshrine as law a practice or principle about which God has not spoken.

The principle of Christian liberty is difficult to apply. Many take advantage of Christian freedom and stick their liberty in the faces of weaker brothers. Others become legalists, elevating human traditions and scruples to the level of divine mandate. The solution to both these problems is an accurate knowledge of what scripture does and does not say. Such knowledge can only be acquired through the prayerful study of God's Word.

PRAYER: Lord, help me be non-judgmental toward my brothers and sisters in Christ. Help me show the love that can only be produced by the Holy Spirit working in me.

TOMORROW'S READING: Romans 15

Copyright © 2021 First Baptist Church, Fort Mill, SC, All rights reserved.

[Visit Our Website](#)

First Baptist Church Fort Mill, 121 Monroe White St., Fort Mill, SC 29715

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by fbcfortmill@comporium.net powered by

