

A Christian Is Free But Not Independent

It is a difficult thing to do, yet very necessary that we find a place of complete spiritual freedom and loving dependence on one another.

The spirit of complete inner freedom is a precious heritage from the sacrifice of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Wholly free from past sins, free from superstition, fear of humans and slavery to popular human customs, wholly free from evil habits.

On a national level free from the necessity of pleasing the self-elected dictators of society.

John 8:31-32 [New King James] *“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”*

Jesus Christ is the truth that sets us free, [verse 36].

Jesus Christ is the source of truth, the perfect standard that is right, our door to a relationship with God the Father, [**John 14:6**].

Jesus Christ sets us free from the consequences of our sins, [Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23].

1 John 1:8-10 [New King James] *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”*

It is only after confession and forgiveness of our sins that God’s Word, the Christian Bible, is opened up to us by the Holy Spirit, [John 16:13] so free access to the wisdom of God is also dependent on Jesus Christ.

Yet such a happy Christian has no feeling of independence, for they are deeply conscious that they are a member of a body of which Jesus Christ is the Head, [**Ephesians 1:22**] and all humanity, having indebtedness to both groups.

It is important that we understand that as long as we are in this mortal body, there will be a danger from one of two extremes, slavish dependence or arrogant independency.

The majority of Christians will accept a place of timid conformity and surrender themselves to the bondage of human authority and custom. In all things religious they will become meek followers of popular trends within their own circle.

Such people have **no** vision of their own, **no** true convictions, **no** real inward freedom of mind and spirit. **They are slaves of the “religious machine,” they know nothing of the liberty with which Jesus Christ has made them free.**

There is another extreme found among “religious” people, a cult of bondage.

Its followers glorify freedom to a point where they deny their proper debt to any fellow human beings, scorning any interdependence to others. They are often contemptuous of spiritual authority, and deny the right of spirit-gifted people to exercise their gifts within the church and society.

This breeds a kind of religious anarchy that is altogether unscriptural and, as might be expected, extremely injurious to the cause of true spirituality.

Both of these extremes must be avoided.

We must seek to live in the paradox of happy dependent freedom.

The ultimate goal of God is to create a unified family that is in the “likeness” of the Triune God Who is One, each Person in complete harmony with the other, [John 10:30, 38; John 14:10].

Genesis 1:26-27 [New King James] *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”*

The Hebrew word translated “image” is “tselem” meaning a shadow, outward form, material representation. The Hebrew word translated “likeness” is completely different, “demûwth” meaning manner, attributes, character.

The characteristics of the final created being are those listed as the “fruits” of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-26 [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”*

Which are in complete contrast to human “works,” [verses 19-21] none of which will be part of God’s Created Family, [“Kingdom” is a family that has grown big.]