

Too Much Liberty Is Dangerous

Freedom is priceless, where it is present life can be enjoyed, where it is absent life can only be endured.

Though millions have died defending freedom it is misunderstood by the majority of its advocates.

The problem lies with our failure to distinguish freedom from liberty.

Freedom is liberty within bounds.

Liberty to obey eternal holy laws.

Liberty to keep the commandments of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Liberty to serve all humanity.

Liberty to develop all the latent talents and possibilities within our redeemed nature.

True Christian liberty never sets us free to indulge our lusts or to follow our selfish impulses.

Isaiah 14:12-14 [King James] *“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”*

It was the unqualified desire for freedom that caused the fall of Lucifer [light bringer] who became Satan and wrought the destruction of the physical created universe and the eternal imprisonment of the angels that followed him.

Genesis 1:1 [King James] *“In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.”*

God created the universe out of nothing [**Hebrews 11:3**] and as with everything that the Creator God does it was perfect. [**Genesis 1:31**]

Genesis 1:2 [King James] *“and the earth was [Hebrews “hâyâh” which is translated “became” in other scriptures **Genesis 2:7; Genesis 9:15; Genesis 19:26; etc.] without form and void...”***

Between verse one and verse two is an unspecified passing of time before God renewed the face of the earth. [**Psalms 104:30**]

Throughout the universe all the planets examined have surfaces that are *“without form and void,”* even our moon. The earth is the only planet that has a surface suitable for human and animal life.

I believe that all this is proof that Lucifer, now Satan, is a powerful example of what seeking freedom without bounds will produce. The human race has followed Lucifer’s example.

Colossians 1:13-16 [NIV] *“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and **for him.**”*

There are two words in this scripture that are life-changing, “*for Him.*” Mind-changing when we meditate on these words and then consider a reason behind them, the future relationship of the Christian Church and Jesus Christ.

Revelation 19:7-8 [King James] *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”*

An intimate relationship as reflected in human marriage between a man and a woman.

John 17:3 [King James] *“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”*

This is how eternal life will be spent, in an intimate working relationship with our Creator God, Jesus Christ.

For this future relationship to be eternal and productive freedom must be limited by the will of the Creator and the character of the created human being.

Unqualified freedom in any area of human existence is deadly.

In government it becomes anarchy.

In domestic life it becomes relationship-destroying free love.

The freest cells in the human body are cancer cells that kill the organism where they grow and multiply.

Any healthy society requires that its members accept a limited freedom.

Each person must curtail their own liberty so that all may be free, too much liberty weakens whatever it touches.

This principle runs throughout all the living created universe.

For example, adult robins may fly freely about all summer enjoying this freedom but if they want a nest full of fledglings they must sit for weeks of voluntary captivity while the mystery of life gestates beneath them. They have the choice, be free and barren or curtail their freedom and bring young to life.

Every human in a free society must decide whether they will exploit their liberty or curtail it for intelligent and moral ends.

Humans may take upon themselves the responsibility of work and family and thus be useful to the human race, or shun all obligations and end up living an unproductive and unfulfilled existence, socially sterile and when they die leave behind them nothing to make others glad that they lived.

The Christian cannot escape the peril of too much liberty, we are free but this freedom may prove to be a source of real temptation that will end in eternal death.

A Christian is free from the chains of sin, free from the consequences of sinful acts now forgiven.

The Grace of God has opened the prison door for us as it did for Barabbas [Matthew 27:20-22], he walked at liberty because Another died in his stead.

What should a Christian do with this freedom?

Two possibilities offer themselves.

The person may accept this blood-won freedom and use it as a cloak to hide their continued surrender to the desires of the flesh.

Or they may kneel like a camel and take on voluntarily a burden.

The burden of fellow human beings who as yet are unaware of the reason for human existence.

The burden of hungry children crying in the night.

The burden of the Christian Church in the clutches of Babylonian captivity, in the swift onrush of false prophets and doctrines.

The burden of the slow decay of the moral foundations of the so-called Christian nations.

The burden of whatever else in the society that demands self-sacrifice and courageous witness to alleviate and to correct.

To preserve the religion of salvation by free grace, we Christians must waive our right to be free and take upon ourselves a greater load than we have ever carried before.

Romans 6:3-4, 6-8, 12-13 [NIV] *“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” ... “For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin, because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.” ... “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.”*

The true Christian life is one of our personal will being sacrificed in order that we can be an instrument that Christ can use for Him to complete His work of redemption and reconciliation.

This is what Jesus Christ meant for His disciples to take up our personal cross.

Matthew 16:24-25 [King James] *“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.”*

It is a matter of giving up our freedom that others may become free.

No authority can compel us to feed the physical and spiritual hunger, to pray for revival or sacrifice ourselves for Christ’s sake and the sake of suffering humanity.

The true Christian is one who knows they are free to do as they will and wills to be the servant of humanity.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

Out of gratitude for the freedom that we have received by the Grace of God we offer our complete lives as a living sacrifice to our Creator God, in an act of worship.