

## **LIBERTY IN CHRIST**

*The New Testament is clear that as a saved person, you are not bound by the Old Testament law, you are bound by God's grace. Some believers abuse the grace of God by claiming liberty to do as they wish without consequences. Others measure the quality of their relationship with God by trying to keep self-imposed moral rules and religious traditions. The purpose of this lesson is to establish the lordship of Jesus Christ as the biblical principle that protects you from abusing your liberty in Jesus.*

**The key word of this lesson is:**

*RESPONSIBILITY*

**The key question this lesson answers:**

*Now that I am forgiven, how can my liberty glorify God?*

**The key purpose of this lesson:**

*To help you understand what your liberty in Jesus Christ is, and how to please and glorify God in your daily walk with him.*

**The key point of this lesson:**

*The liberty you have in Jesus Christ gives you freedom to do what is right without being bound by the Old Testament law.*

**Memory Verses:**

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

*"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."  
– **Romans 8:2***

# YOU HAVE LIBERTY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

---

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” – Galatians 5:1*

## THE KEY POINT OF THIS LESSON!

The liberty you have in Jesus Christ gives you freedom to do what is right without being bound by the Old Testament law. This liberty is not a license to sin, or to do what you want, it instead gives you freedom to serve God fully and completely.

Another term for liberty is free will. You are free to choose between God’s will and your will. However, every decision you make will have an eternal impact upon yourself and the people around you. You must be responsible with the liberty and opportunity God has given you to glorify him.

### A. Jesus Christ made you free to serve him and not your sin.

A believer who is bound by sin is not free to serve God, and a believer who is bound by God is not free to sin.

*Romans 6:12-13; Romans 8:1-4*

### B. Jesus Christ made you free to serve him without having to keep the laws of Old Testament, or any other religious or legalistic regulations.

*Galatians 3:24-26; Colossians 2:13-14*

### C. Jesus Christ made you free to cross over cultural and economic barriers to see people come to faith in Christ.

*1 Corinthians 9:19-22*

## DISCUSSION:

Are you currently allowing anything in your life to keep you from serving God?

Have you ever been in a situation where religion or legalism has restrained you from serving God or ministering to others?

# YOU HAVE LIBERTY TO MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICES

*“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” – 2 Corinthians 3:17*

## **A. You are free to choose to do what is right, not what you want.**

1. Your liberty should cause you to choose to obey God.

*Romans 6:17-23*

2. Your liberty does not give you permission to feed your sinful flesh.

*Galatians 5:13*

3. Your liberty allows you to reap the consequences of your choices, whether they be good or bad.

*Galatians 6:7-9; Hebrews 12:5-11*

## **B. You are free to choose to live your life according to the freedom that is found in the truth of God’s word.**

*John 8:31-32; James 1:22-25*

## **C. You are free to choose to live your life to glorify the Lord.**

*Matthew 5:16; 2 Timothy 2:20-21*

### **DISCUSSION:**

Can you share an example of when you made the choice to do what was right even though it was not what you really wanted to do?

# YOUR LIBERTY WILL AFFECT PEOPLE AROUND YOU

## **A. You are not to judge others who have different convictions than you.**

*Romans 14:1-6*

## **B. You are a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ at all times, and your life will be examined by others around you.**

*Romans 14:7*

- C. You are to avoid anything that could cause a weaker Christian to stumble in their faith. Be sensitive to their spiritual needs.

*Romans 14:13-15*

- D. Your liberty can appear wrong even if it is not. You must guard yourself against the appearance of wrong doing.

*Romans 14:16*

- E. God gave you liberty as a way to lead others to salvation in Jesus Christ. Your testimony for Jesus is more important than your personal desires.

*Romans 14:17-18*

**DISCUSSION:**

Has there been a time in your life when you chose to avoid something so that you would not offend another believer or ruin your testimony with the lost?

## **DETERMINING THE BOUNDARIES OF YOUR LIBERTY**

The bible gives clear boundaries that should not be crossed. You cannot justify sin and the violation of the direct word of God by claiming liberty in Christ from the law. There are, however, some boundaries to your liberty that are not clearly defined in scripture. In these instances, it is important to allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you ask yourself specific questions according to biblical truth.

*Ephesians 5:3-8; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10*

- A. Am I allowing myself to be brought under the power of something that should not be controlling my life?

*1 Corinthians 6:12*

- B. Does what I am allowing in my life draw me to God, or does it distract me from him?

*1 Corinthians 10:23*

**C. Is God going to be glorified by this?**

*1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17*

**D. Am I going to offend anyone by doing this?**

*1 Corinthians 10:32*

**E. Would this decision give cause for a lost person to reject Jesus as Savior?**

*1 Corinthians 10:33*

**F. Would this decision cause other believers to stumble in their faith?**

*Romans 15:1-2*

**G. Am I having doubts about this decision because my conscience is condemning me?**

*Romans 14:22-23; Acts 24:16*

**H. Is this something I feel like I have to keep hidden or do in secret?**

*Ephesians 5:11-13*

**I. Would I be ashamed if the Lord returned while I was doing this?**

*1 Thessalonians 5:23*

**J. Is this an attempt to see how close to sin I can get without crossing the line?**

*1 Peter 2:16*

**K. What is good and right about this thing that I would allow in my life?**

*Philippians 4:8*

**DISCUSSION:**

Is there an area in your life that you are still unsure about it being within the boundaries of the liberty that God has given you?

# YOUR LIBERTY IS BALANCED BY THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

---

The purpose of this lesson is to establish the lordship of Jesus Christ as the biblical principle that protects you from abusing your liberty in Jesus. In order to please God, Jesus Christ must be more than your Savior, he must also be your Lord. The lordship of Jesus Christ is the basis of your Christian life, and is accomplished by following him through the principles of the word of God.

## A. Lordship is choosing Jesus Christ first in every situation.

*“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” – Colossians 1:17-18*

## B. Lordship is yielding your will to God’s will.

*“I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.” – Psalm 40:8*

*“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”  
– Phillipians 2:13*

## C. Lordship is recognizing that you are not your own.

*“And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.” – 2 Corinthians 5:15*

## D. Lordship is loving God with your entire being.

*“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” – Mark 12:30*

### DISCUSSION:

Jesus is the ultimate example and pattern of lordship for us. Even though he was God in the flesh, Jesus chose to deny himself and submit to the will of the Father.

*“He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk, even as he walked.”  
– 1 John 2:6*

How has making Jesus the Lord of your life changed the way you exercise your liberty in Christ?

# REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. Explain in your own words what it means to have liberty in Christ.

---

---

---

2. What are two choices you are free to make within the liberty you have in Jesus Christ? Please include supporting verses.

a. 

---

---

b. 

---

---

3. Explain how making Jesus your Lord protects you from abusing the liberty that God has given you.

---

---

---

4. List three examples of how your liberty may affect others around you?

a. 

---

b. 

---

c. 

---

5. What do you feel is the most important question you can ask yourself when determining the boundaries of your liberty? Why?

---

---

---

---

6. What is the key purpose of the lesson, and what has it taught you?

---

---

---

---

---

# PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY

In *Acts 10:9-20* God causes the apostle Peter to have a dream about eating animals that were not lawful for God's people to eat. What do you think God was teaching Peter through the dream?

---

---

---

Read *Acts 10:27-35*. What conclusion did Peter come to about his dream? How were the people in Cornelius' household affected by Peter's liberty in Christ?

---

---

---

---

Read *Galatians 2:11-16*. The liberty Peter had in Jesus Christ allowed him as a Jew to minister and share life with people who were not Jewish (*Gentiles*). What did Peter do when his liberty in Jesus was tested by religious legalism? How did his response affect those who were close to him? What did the apostle Paul say about Peter's testimony?

---

---

---

---

---

---

Our liberty in Christ frees us from the bondage of sin so that we are free to serve Jesus Christ as Lord. Read *1 Corinthians 7:22-23* and explain in your own words what it means to be free to serve Christ. What is Paul's conclusion about serving men or the Lord in our liberty?

---

---

---

---

---

---