

## **SECTION EIGHT : FREE IN CHRIST**

### **73. FREE FROM BONDAGE TO THE LAW**

**Galatians 2:3,4,16**

**3 Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.**

**4 And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),**

**16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**

**Galatians 5:1-6**

**1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.**

**2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.**

**3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.**

**4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.**

**5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.**

**6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.**

**Galatians 6:15**

**For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.**

**Romans 7:4-6**

**4 Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.**

**5 For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.**

**6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.**

**Galatians 5:18**

**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

**Romans 13:8,10**

**8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.**

**10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.**

We walk in the Spirit. We walk in love.

In the New Testament, the standards are higher than Old Testament Law. The Old Testament taught 'do not commit adultery'. The New Testament instructs us not even look lustfully at a woman. The Old Testament taught, 'do not commit murder'. The New Testament teaches us not to hate another, because to hate is to commit murder.

## **74. FREE FROM MEANINGLESS RITUALS**

**Galatians 4:6–11**

**6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"**

**7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.**

**8 But then, indeed, when you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.**

**9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?**

**10 You observe days and months and seasons and years.**

**11 I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.**

**Philippians 3:3**

**For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.**

You do not belong to a religion. You belong to a person.

You do not live as part of a religious system. You live in Christ Jesus.

## **75. FREE FROM MAN-MADE IDEAS**

**Colossians 2:16-23**

**16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,**

**17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.**

**18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,**

**19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.**

**20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—**

**21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,"**

**22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?**

**23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.**

We do not have to be subject to man-made ideas on observing days, e.g. lent, etc.

We do not subject ourselves to some other person's supernatural visitations, angels, dreams, encounters with Jesus. Do not be brought under someone else's supernatural experience. Let it be for them. You stay with the written Scriptures.

We do not have to be subject to man-made/cultural superstitions.

## **76. STAND FIRM IN YOUR FREEDOM**

**Galatians 5:1**

**Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.**

## **77. DO NOT MISUSE YOUR FREEDOM**

### **Galatians 5:13-14**

**13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.**

**14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”**

However, we must learn to walk in freedom with wisdom. We must not abuse our freedom. The New Testament teaches us to walk in the Spirit and to walk in love.

We see in Scripture that walking in love toward others overrides over walking in freedom. Our freedom ends, where love towards another begins.

We see in Scripture that walking in honor toward others overrides our walking in freedom. Our freedom ends, where honor towards another begins.

We see in Scripture that we place the well-being of others above our walking in freedom. Our freedom ends, where the well-being of another begins.

We are completely free in our spirits. So letting go of liberties, what we could otherwise enjoy, for the benefit of another person, is not a problem at all.

Willingly sacrificing our personal freedom for the benefit of another person, does not in any way put us in bondage, because in our spirits we are indeed free in Christ.

### ***Pay your taxes***

#### **Romans 13:1–7**

**1 Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.**

**2 Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.**

**3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.**

**4 For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.**

**5 Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake.**

**6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing.**

**7 Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.**

*Honor people*

**Romans 13:7**

**Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.**

**1 Peter 2:17**

**Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.**

*Honor your employers/managers*

**Ephesians 6:5–9**

**5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;**

**6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,**

**7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,**

**8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.**

**9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.**

**Colossians 3:22–25**

**22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.**

**23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,**

**24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.**

**25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.**

## **78. USE YOUR FREEDOM WISELY**

Your freedom ends, where the well-being of another begins.

You are completely free in your spirit, so letting go of liberties, what you could otherwise enjoy, for the benefit of another person, is not a problem at all. Letting go of your personal freedom for the benefit of another person, does not in any way put you in bondage, because in your spirit you are free in Christ.

### **Romans 14:1–9**

**1** Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things.  
**2** For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats only vegetables.  
**3** Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. **4** Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. **5** One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. **6** He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord;[a] and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. **7** For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. **8** For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and rose[b] and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

### **1 Corinthians 8:1–13**

**1** Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies.  
**2** And if anyone thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.  
**3** But if anyone loves God, this one is known by Him.  
**4** Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.  
**5** For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords),  
**6** yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.  
**7** However, there is not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat it as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.  
**8** But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

**9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.**

**10 For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?**

**11 And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?**

**12 But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.**

**13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.**

**1 Corinthians 9:19–23**

**19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;**

**20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;**

**21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;**

**22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.**

**23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.**