

FREEDOM

In our country, freedom in a political sense means having liberty, instead of oppression, and includes many individual rights, such as the right to bear arms, the right to free speech and the right to worship as you please. This causes a problem when talking about biblical things. Biblical freedom does not have the same connotation as our political freedoms and can mislead Christians in their understanding of the liberty we are to walk in. We are warned in the book of Galatians:

Galatians 5:13

“For you were called to freedom, brethren; only {do} not {turn} your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

The freedom that Jesus bought for us sets us free from the oppression of the devil, but we aren't free to do whatever we choose. We are now free to submit and serve the One who saved us.

Romans 6:17-18

“But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

Romans 6:22

“But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.”

Paul saw himself as a slave to the Lord and His purposes. It is Jesus' purposes and will that should override our own, since He is Lord.

1 Corinthians 7:22

“For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave.”

1 Corinthians 9:19

“For though I am free from all {men,} I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more.”

We are also warned by Paul to be careful how we walk; to realize we may not be able to exercise any liberty we have, should it offend or cause a brother to stumble. If we really love, then our brother is more important than any such freedom, and we must choose to give up this liberty on his behalf.

1 Corinthians 8:9

“But take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.”