

LIBERTY IN CHRIST

Date: 07 June 2014



Everyone is seeking and claiming their rights.

Human Rights
Gay Rights
Animal Rights
Woman's Rights
Land Rights
Ethnic Rights

A humanistic view of rights creates mindset regarding our liberty. There are symbols of freedom or liberty throughout the world

Freedom Parks
Freedom Squares
Freedom Statues
Freedom Days

The Statue of Liberty (Liberty Enlightening the World; French: La Liberté éclairant le monde) is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in the middle of New York Harbor, in Manhattan, New York City. The statue, designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and dedicated on October 28, 1886, was a gift to the United States from the people of France. The statue is of a robed female figure representing Libertas, the Roman goddess of freedom, who bears a torch and a tabula ansata (a tablet evoking the law) upon which is inscribed the date of the American Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776. A broken chain lies at her feet. The statue is an icon of freedom and of the United States: a welcoming signal to immigrants arriving from abroad.

While we have freedom or movement or exercising of rights. This liberty has to be exercised within laws.

Family Law
Criminal Law
Labor Law
Corporate Law
Civil Law
Environmental Law
Religious Law

While you might be set free from systems of slavery or bondage or autocracy you are still bound by laws that govern and determine your freedom. As citizens of any country which has gained independence or fought for freedom, elected governments determine the laws through which those citizens can exercise their freedom.

We are citizens

Ephesians 2:19 NKJV

19 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God

We are a holy city

Hebrews 12:22-23 NKJV

22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect

We who are citizens of the Holy City have freedom in Christ but our freedom is governed or restricted by the law of God's word.

Christ has come to set us free or to liberate us from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2 NKJV

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death

2 Corinthians 3:17 NKJV

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

GREEK: Eleutheria - Liberty

g1657. ἐλευθερία eleutheria; from 1658; freedom (legitimate or licentious, chiefly moral or ceremonial):— liberty. AV (11)- liberty 11; liberty to do or to omit things having no relationship to salvation fancied liberty licence, the liberty to do as one pleases true liberty is living as we should not as we please. (STRONG)

The Spirit of the Lord refers to the sovereignty of the Spirit that determines our freedom. While we are free from the law of sin and death which is the ceremonial law; as sons we are led by the spirit which are the words that Jesus speaks

John 6:63 NKJV

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

The liberty that we have is because of finished work of the cross

We have liberty in:

Food

1 Corinthians 10:29-31 NKJV

27 If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. 28 But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness." 29 "Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience? 30 But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks?

31 Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God

Liberty from the ceremonial law of bondage

Galatians 5:1 NKJV

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

Glorious liberty of the children of God

Romans 8:21 NKJV

21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Jesus was anointed by the Spirit of the Lord to give liberty

Luke 4:18-19 NKJV

*18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."*

GREEK: Aphasis - Freedom from sin

g0859. ἄφεσις aphasis; from 863; freedom; (figuratively) pardon:— deliverance, forgiveness, liberty, remission. AV (17)- remission 9, forgiveness 6, deliverance 1, liberty 1; release from bondage or imprisonment forgiveness or pardon, of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty (STRONG)

Christ came to remit our sins by His shed blood. This remission is as if the sins has never been committed. He releases forgiveness that sets us free from sin but not its consequences. The process of repentance delivers us from the consequences but our sin is remitted in Christ through His blood.

Jesus proclaimed the acceptable year of the Lord which is the year of Jubilee. Every fifty years was regarded as the Year of Jubilee or the Acceptable year of the Lord. It was preceded by the Feast of trumpets

Leviticus 25:8-10 NKJV

8 "And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty- nine years. 9 Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. 10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family

A liberty was proclaimed throughout the land which meant a return of possessions and a return to your family.

Jesus came as our Jubilee to set the captive free and to make us part of the family of God.

Jesus Christ is our liberty. This liberty comes by the spirit of the Lord. The structure of the household must bring people into the liberty of Christ. This liberty is sonship by the spirit and not by legalism or manipulation.

John 8:36 NKJV

36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Galatians 4:28-31 NKJV

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. 29 But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. 30 Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman." 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free

While we have this liberty we should not use it wickedly

1 Peter 2:16 KJV Strongs

16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

Liberty of the Prophets

God spoke through the prophets

Hebrews 1:1 NKJV

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets

The prophets were holy men who as they moved by the Holy Spirit

2 Peter 1:21 NKJV

21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

The prophets liberty was restricted by the word of the Lord

Jeremiah 1:7 NKJV

7 But the Lord said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,'

For you shall go to all to whom I send you,

And whatever I command you, you shall speak

Balaam was restricted to the word of the Lord and could not curse the nation of Israel

Numbers 22:18 NKJV

18 Then Balaam answered and said to the servants of Balak, "Though Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the Lord my God, to do less or more.

If the prophet shared anything else besides what God had said he would be regarded as a false prophet.

Liberty of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit taught what He heard the Father say

John 14:26 NKJV

26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 16:13-15 NKJV

13 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Eliezer had the freedom of Abrahams household but was restricted only to commands of his master in finding a wife for Isaac.

Genesis 24:2-4 NKJV

2 So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, "Please, put your hand under my thigh, 3 and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell; 4 but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac

Eliezer means "helper" and is a picture of the Holy Spirit.

Modcai had the liberty of caring for Esther only to prepare her for her purpose as Queen.

Liberty of the Disciples

Jesus sent out the disciples within boundaries. The effect of their ministry was determined by the restriction on their liberty

Matthew 10:5-14 NKJV

5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. 9 Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, 10 nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.

11 " Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. 12 And when you go into a household, greet it. 13 If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. 14 And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet

The disciples had the liberty to go to towns or cities but their effect was determined by following the interactions laid out by their Master.

Liberty of the Apostles

Paul taught what was revealed by the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:12-13 NKJV

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual

Paul's movement was limited by the Holy Spirit

Acts 16:6-10 (NKJV)

6 Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them. 8 So passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.

As sons of God our liberty must come from the liberty that Jesus had as the Son of God.

Liberty of Christ

While the Jesus removed the yoke of bondage and slavery we have take on the yoke that Jesus had.

Matthew 11:25-30 NKJV

25 At that time Jesus answered and said, " I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. 26 Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. 27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. 28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light

GREEK: Zygos - Yoke

g2218. ζυγός zygos; from the root of ζεύγνυμι zeugnumi (to join, especially by a "yoke"); a coupling, i. e. (figuratively) servitude (a law or obligation); also (literally) the beam of the balance (as connecting the scales):— pair of balances, yoke.

AV (6)- yoke 5, pair of balances 1; a yoke that is put on draught cattle metaph., used of any burden or bondage as that of slavery of troublesome laws imposed on one, esp. of the Mosaic law, hence the name is so transferred to the commands of Christ as to contrast them with the commands of the Pharisees which were a veritable 'yoke'; yet even Christ's commands must be submitted to, though easier to be kept a balance, pair of scales (STRONG)

Jesus had a joint with His Father as a Son and that brought Him rest. The liberty that Jesus Christ had was limited by only His divine sonship.

His teaching was restricted or determined by only what the Father would say

John 12:48-50 NKJV

48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak. 50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak

His works was restricted by the Father

John 9:4 NKJV

4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

John 10:32 NKJV

32 Jesus answered them, “ Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?”

John 10:37-38 NKJV

37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; 38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him

His authority was limited to the Father

Matthew 20:20-23 NKJV

20 Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him.

21 And He said to her, “ What do you wish?”

She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.”

22 But Jesus answered and said, “ You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

They said to Him, “We are able.”

23 So He said to them, “ You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father

John 5:24-27 NKJV

25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man

The liberty of Jesus as the Son of God was restricted to the will of the Father

John 4:34 NKJV

34 Jesus said to them, “ My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

Luke 22:41-42 NKJV

41 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, “ Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done

We who are in Christ are free only to do the will of the Father. We consult with the Father in the secret place so that we can know His will.

The prodigal's son freedom was limited by the will of the Father. He was free to the point of realising that His true freedom was in serving as a son to his father.

Luke 15:18-19 NKJV

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." '

We have the perfect law of liberty

James 1:22-25 NKJV

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; 24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. 25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does

The word is the perfect law of liberty. While we are free we can use our liberty maliciously rather than effectively.

We can abuse our liberty by allowing:

- Traditions of men to prevail within our households
- Music to be regarded as true worship
- Celebration of days, times and seasons
- Human institutions to enslave the sons of God
- Money to become our God
- Fame and fortune to become our purpose
- Fellowship that is driven by food and drink (alcohol) and not the doctrine of Christ

We should be careful that our liberty does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

1 Corinthians 8:9 NKJV

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

Within the relationship of a spiritual father and son there is liberty. The son should allow his liberty to help him discover his covenant.

Luke 15:18-19 (NKJV)

I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." '

Such freedom must not lead to

- Familiarity
- Disrespect
- Demands on the father

- Disregard for his time and privacy
- Emotional manipulation
- Abuse of resources
- Dishonour
- Sins of bypass, surpass and trespass

The Father should not enslave the son who is free in Christ