

by Kyle Pope

Freedom Must Not Be Abused

We noticed at the beginning of our study that unrestricted freedom of behavior ultimately results in robbing others of freedom. If one does not yield his will in obedience to the “**law of liberty**” found in Christ, he actually forfeits his own freedoms in the process. Peter warned of false teachers who advocated a licentious lifestyle. He wrote, “**While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage**” (2 Peter 2:19).

Just as the freedom afforded by civil law must never be taken to the point that one’s liberty leads to the restriction of the freedom of others, so it is with the liberty that is in Christ. Simply because I am freed from the cycle of sin and death in Christ, doesn’t mean that I can act as if I can sin with impunity. Peter warned, “**For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God**” (1 Peter 2:15-16). Paul warned the Christians in Galatia, who had been troubled by the false teaching that urged a return to Mosaic Law, “**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**” (Galatians 5:13). This is part of the problem with the modern false doctrine of once-saved-always-saved. It leads people to imagine that freedom from sin grants one the freedom to sin. Thanks be to God that in Christ we can be liberated from bondage to sin and death, but let us always see in this liberty the merciful opportunity to serve God in accordance with His will, recognizing, “**where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty**” (2 Corinthians 3:17b).

EDITOR’S NOTE: I had planned on writing an article comparing our national freedom celebrated on the fourth of July with our freedom in Christ. When I came across Kyle’s lengthy, thorough article on the subject, I did not feel that I could improve upon it. So I offer these thoughts to you and encourage you to read — study — and comprehend all the many facets of the subject which he covered. Be sure you understand this subject because it deals with the important subject of our personal, eternal freedom. Your soul may depend upon it.

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