

Doctrine of Liberty

1. The concept of personal liberty finds its ultimate origin in God and not man, or man's institutions whether religious, political or otherwise.
2. The enforcement of liberty was made part of the Law of God.
 - *Leviticus 25:10 And ye shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof: it shall be a jubilee unto you; and ye shall return every man unto his possession, and ye shall return every man unto his family.*
3. True liberty is the freedom of the heart to do what is right.
 - *Psalms 119:45 And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.*
4. Part of the Messianic work was to proclaim liberty to the captives.
 - *Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*
 - *Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*
5. Men must live in the hope of having liberty. The church alone can give this hope.
 - *Jeremiah 34:8 This is the word that came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, after that the king Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people which were at Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty unto them;*
6. It is right when individuals stop the enslavement of others and proclaim liberty every man to his neighbor.
 - *Jeremiah 34:15 And ye were now turned, and had done right in my sight, in proclaiming liberty every man to his neighbour; and ye had made a covenant before me in the house which is called by my name:*
7. A curse from God rests upon every person who enslaves another and takes away their liberty.

- *Jeremiah 34:16 But ye turned and polluted my name, and caused every man his servant, and every man his handmaid, whom ye had set at liberty at their pleasure, to return, and brought them into subjection, to be unto you for servants and for handmaids.*
8. God will mock those who pretend to give liberty to others but in truth enslave souls physically, politically or economically.
- *Jeremiah 34:17 Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the LORD, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.*
9. Even those who hold others captive realize the need for people to be free and have liberty.
- *Acts 24:23 And he commanded a centurion to keep Paul, and to let him have liberty, and that he should forbid none of his acquaintance to minister or come unto him.*
10. In spiritual matters there is a glorious liberty spoke of belonging to the children of God.
- *Romans 8:21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*
11. Liberty brings freedom to act in a different manner.
- *1 Corinthians 7:39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.*
12. It is possible for Christians to abuse the spiritual liberty they find in Christ and so become a stumbling block or a hindrance to a weaker brother.
- *1 Corinthians 8:9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.*
13. Sometimes a believer must defend the spiritual liberty against a weaker brother who has become too legalistic.
- *1 Corinthians 10:29 Conscience, I say, not thine own, but of the other: for why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?*

14. The spiritual health of a church and the spiritual health of a Christian may be measured in part by the liberty that is manifested. Rules and regulations, form and ceremony, a judgmental spirit and legalism binds the Spirit of the Lord.

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

15. False brethren are brethren who are not truly converted. They are never as gracious as Christ nor as forgiving as God. They live to find fault.

- *Galatians 2:4 And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage:*

16. The Christian is to guard the liberty found in Christ. Resistance must be made against the legalist and the libertine.

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

17. With liberty comes responsibility.

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

18. The most perfect law of liberty is the Word of God.

- *James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

19. The law of liberty stands in judgment upon our attitude and actions.

- *James 2:12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.*

20. Peter warns that liberty can be used as a cloke for maliciousness.

- *1 Peter 2:16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.*

21. Some individuals promise others liberty while being a servant of corruption. The woman Jezebel of Revelation 2 offers one illustration.

- *2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.*