

Liberty Corrupted

Michael Woody | LBCF 21.3

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They who upon pretence of Christian liberty do practice any sin, or cherish any sinful lust, as they do thereby pervert the main design of the grace of the gospel to their own destruction, so they wholly destroy the end of Christian liberty, which is, that being delivered out of the hands of all our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our lives.

SURVEY OF SCRIPTURE

1. They who upon pretence of Christian liberty do practice any sin, or cherish any sinful lust, as they do thereby pervert the main design of the grace of the gospel to their own destruction (Romans 6:1-2)
2. So they wholly destroy the end of Christian liberty, which is, that being delivered out of the hands of all our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our lives. (Gal 5:13; 2 Pet 2:18,21)

WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US?

1. The fact that we have liberty from our former cruel slave-master does not mean we cannot make that liberty a _____ for our lusts (Waldron)
2. The _____ liberty _____ pleaded _____ for _____ in _____ our _____ Confession _____ is not _____ and _____. (Robert Shaw)
 - a. The _____ WCF _____ has _____ a _____ section _____ around _____ obedience to _____, _____ and _____ rulers.

- b. The LBCF did not include this section - it could be because civil authorities did use it as a means to justify their sinful actions. This section certainly falls in line with Romans 13.
- c. The purpose and focus of liberty is freedom to obey ____ not the _____.
- d. Liberty is not an _____ liberty to do as we choose, but a _____ liberty to obey God without hindrance from man.
- e. Liberty is a freedom from _____ authority, in order that we may be the more perfectly subject to the only _____ authority.
- f. There can be no liberty which sets a man independent of that will; and this is always the will of God concerning us, even our _____ (1 Thess. 4:3).

3. What can we learn from this overall chapter?

- a. God alone is _____ of the human conscience, which is responsible only to His authority.
- b. God has authoritatively addressed the human conscience only in His _____, the only perfect revelation of which in this world is the inspired Scriptures.
- c. To obey doctrines or commandments of men which are contrary or outside of teaching from God's Word as a matter of _____, is to be guilty of the sin of betraying the liberty of conscience and its loyalty to its only Lord.
- d. To require such an obedience of others to such commandments is to be guilty of the sin of usurping the _____ of God and attempting to destroy the most precious liberties of men.
- e. Liberty is tempered by _____ _____ we owe one another, by obedience to ecclesiastical authority and obedience to civil authorities.
- f. Liberty is not absolute. It has its distinct end and limits. Its *end* is that every person, without hindrance of his fellow-men, should have opportunity to serve ____ according to his will.

