Christian Liberty

Its Purpose and Guidelines

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

- **John 8:31-32** Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 ***and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."***

- The demand for absolute liberty brings men to the depths of slavery.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What is Christian liberty - freedom?

- “Christian freedom is freedom of conscience, freedom from a legal system that couldn't be kept. It is freedom from the depressing awareness that we can't measure up to God. Christians do measure up in Christ. We have been "accepted in the Beloved"” (Eph. 1:6). J MacArthur
- “Christian liberty is being free from having to fulfill the legal code to please God, and free from the frustration of not being able to keep an external set of rules. In a positive sense, it is the freedom to function by the internal working of the Spirit”. J. MacArthur

- **Galatians 4:1-7** Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father. 3 So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world. 4 But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Compliance in any legal system is superficial and limited. Only items specifically listed in the "letter" of a legal system are mandatory. The liability with any legal system is that behavior can degenerate into hollow conformity characterized by thoughtless emphasis on things which may not matter (Matthew 23:24) and avoidance of "getting caught."

Learning to teach others to value the discerned will of God is a challenging task. Perhaps, the art is lost because it is much easier to coerce compliance than to persuade or convert. Yet coercion is a poor substitute, and the danger of fostering a man-pleasing compliance can lead to the prideful and shallow conformity that legalistic systems foster


Liberty
Legalism
License
Walking in the Spirit
Gal 5:16
Returning to slavery
Gal 5:1
Opportunity for the flesh
Gal 5:13

- John Brock
- http://www.mbbc.edu/page.aspx?m=1960