Christian Liberty

Setting goals to make the most of your liberty

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Principles for making the most of your liberty

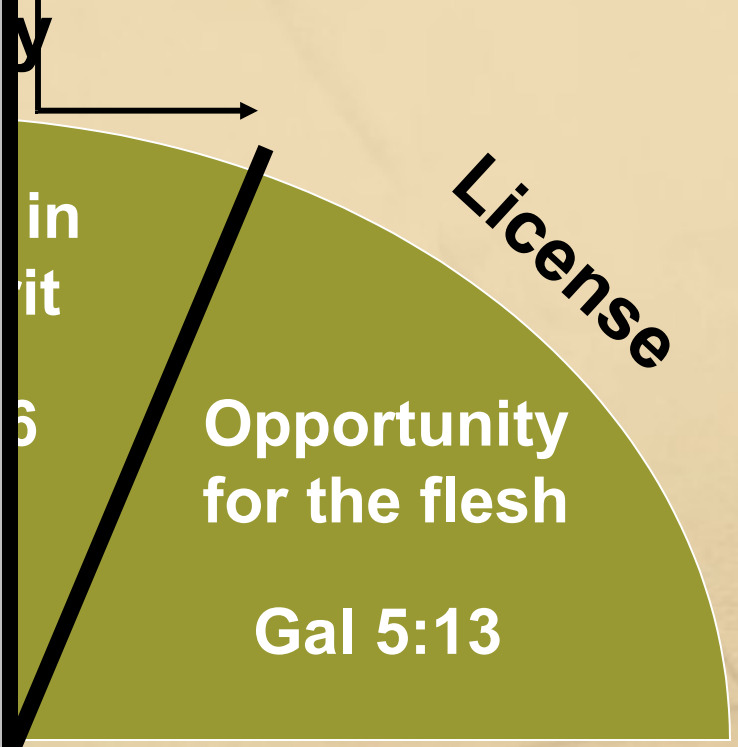
1st principle: Know your boundaries

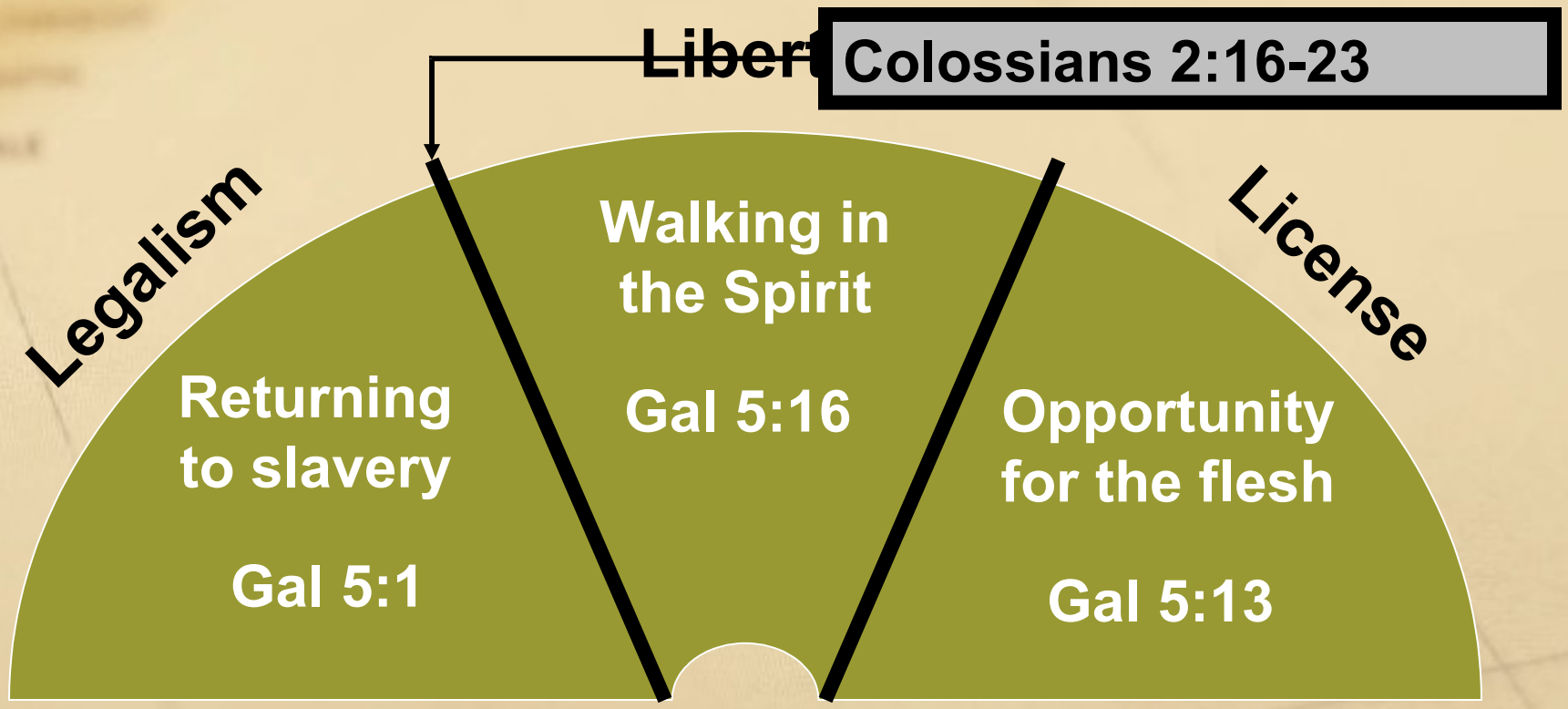
It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1


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

Galatians 5:19-21 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.




Liber
Colossians 2:16-23
Legalism
Returning to slavery
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Colossians 2:16-23 Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day-- 17 things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, 21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" 22 (which all *refer to* things destined to perish with the using)-- in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.

Principles for making the most of your liberty

- ***The 2nd principle: Do all for the glory of God***

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

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The 3rd principle is live by the royal law.

James 2:8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

Romans 13:8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled *the* law

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- ***The 4th principle: Make it profitable for eternity***
  - **1 Corinthians 10:33 - 11:1** just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of the many, that they may be saved.
  - **1 Corinthians 9:22** To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some.
  - **1 Corinthians 6:12** All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

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- ***The 5th principle: Allow only one master***
  - **Proverbs 25:28** *Like* a city that is broken into *and* without walls Is a man who has no control over his spirit.
  - **Romans 6:14** For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.
  - **1 Corinthians 6:12** All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

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- ***The 6th principle: Make your associations work toward God's best***

  - **1 Corinthians 15:33** Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."
  - **1 Corinthians 11:1 1 Corinthians 11:1** Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

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- ***The 7th principle: Be willing to pay a price***
  - **2 Timothy 2:3-4** Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.
  - **1 Corinthians 8:13** Therefore, if food causes my brother to stumble, I will never eat meat again, that I might not cause my brother to stumble.

Principle	Passage	Activity may be OK if . . .
Excess	Heb. 12:1	It doesn't slow me down spiritually
Expedience	1 Cor. 6:12	It can be profitable, useful
Enslavement	1 Cor. 6:12	I can be Spirit-controlled in this
Example	Rom. 14:13	It can allow me to be a good example
Evangelism	Col. 4:5	It can help spread the gospel

Principle	Passage	Activity may be OK if . . .
Edification	1 Cor. 10:23	It can help other Christians
Exaltation	1 Cor. 10:31	It can glorify God
Emulation	1 John 2:6	I can imitate Christ in this
Revenge	Lev. 19:18	It has nothing to do with avenging myself
Forgiveness	Matt. 18:21-22	I can demonstrate forgiveness in this

Principle	Passage	Activity may be OK if . . .
Stewardship	Luke 12:37-48	I can be a good steward in this
Conformity	Rom. 12:2	This won't conform me to Satan's world
Peace	Rom. 12:18	I can maintain peace with others in this
Preference	Rom. 12:10	I can put others before me in this
Subjection	Rom. 13:1	It can show my subjection to authority

Principle	Passage	Activity may be OK if . . .
Goodness	Gal. 6:10	I can show goodness to others in this
Body	1 Cor. 6:9	This doesn't harm God's temple in any way
Yoke	2 Cor. 6:14	This won't bind me to unbelievers
Appearance	1 Thess. 5:22	I'm free from evil appearance in this
Lust	2 Tim. 2:22	I'm free from a chance to lust in this

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