

LIBERTY AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

A NECESSARY COMBINATION

*"Being then made free from sin,
ye became the servants of righteousness."*

~ Romans 6:18

1. The Problem of Sin

- a. God's order: a life of truth, righteousness, love, peace, joy in Him – Rom 14:17
- b. Sin is rebellion against God's order: reject God, reject life, accept turmoil -2Cor 12:20
 - i. Oppression is sin, injustice is sin, racism is sin, greed is sin, selfishness is sin, unbelief is a sin, ignorance, impatience, boredom is a sin, pride is sin.
- c. Sin is the problem – we need deliverance from it, not deliverance from the idea of it.

2. Two Ideas of Liberty

Liberty ~*def.* freedom, not restrained, not bound – Gal 5:1

- 1) Liberty from all powers/responsibility (i.e. government, marriage, family, God)
 - i. This is deliverance from institutions, but Titus 3:1-2, Rom 13:1-2, Col 1:16-18
 - ii. We have duties - Rom 14:12-13, 1 Cor 5:1, 6:12, 7:2, 9:21, 10:23
- 2) Liberty from the power of sin (i.e. anything contrary to God's order)
 - iii. It is not the institution, but wickedness that we fight – Eph 6:12
 - iv. There is no first amendment in God's kingdom, only now on earth
 - v. It is not enough to be lawful it must be right - Rom 6:7

3. Two Means of Righteousness

- a. Justified by Law – do right and live - Deu 6:25, Gal 3:12
 - i. A bigger problem: sin is not cured by law – Rom 7:9-12, 3:9-20
 - ii. Strength of sin is the law – 1 Cor 15:56
- b. Justified by Grace through faith – Rom 3:21-26, 4:3-5, 4:20-22, 5:1
 - i. Our righteousness is His and of God (not ourselves) – 2 Cor 5:21

4. Liberty Requires Righteousness

- a. Biblical liberty is not freedom from any restraint, but the restraint of sin.
- b. G. Washington – "indissoluble union between virtue and happiness."
- c. "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" – was the pursuit of righteousness
- d. Free from sin = servants of righteousness - Rom 6:18

5. Free to Do Right

- a. Not free to do wrong – Rom 6:20-23
- b. "By any means necessary" is a wicked thought – Rom 3:8
- c. Our freedom from the power of sin is granted by Jesus Christ - Gal 5:13, 6:2
- d. Your life constrained by him to live godly – 2 Cor 5:14, 1 Tim 2:4