

## **A Way to Think: Precepts, Principles and Preferences**

To clarify the areas in which Christian Liberty may be applied, let me suggest that the Christian's actions be placed into four broad categories: explicit precepts, implicit precepts, principles, and preferences.

### **Explicit Precepts**

"Explicit Precepts" are the clear commands of Scripture, those actions which must be done or conversely which are clearly prohibited.

### **Implicit Precepts**

The implicit precepts of Scripture are the logical conclusions of the explicit teaching of Scripture

### **Principles**

General Commands

A succinct statement of a universal truth

Application

Example

### **Preferences**

No Biblical basis

Preferences should never be a basis for non-fellowship.

### Categories for Fellowship and Separation

	<b>Explicit Teaching of Scripture</b>	<b>Implicit Teaching of Scripture</b>	<b>Principle Drawn from Scripture</b>	<b>Preference</b>
<b>Biblical Statement</b>	The Bible undeniably states	The logical conclusion from the data of Scripture	The general teaching of Scripture	In my humble opinion
<b>Basis</b>	Clear teaching	Clear interpretation	Interpretation	Immaterial
<b>Position</b>	Orthodoxy; tightly held conviction	Beliefs; conviction	Principles	Opinions
<b>Importance</b>	Absolutely Essential	Very Important	Important	Not Important
<b>Example</b>	Giving to the Lord's work	Tithing	Giving more than we think we can	Giving to the Building Fund
<b>Example</b>	Salvation by Faith	Church membership after salvation	Every believer should be a member of a local church	Right hand of Christian fellowship for new members
<b>Practice</b>	Total Obedience	Obedience	Optional	No Obligation
<b>Denial</b>	Heresy or Willful Rebellion	Significant Disagreement	Disagreement	Not worth Discussing
<b>Believer's Response</b>	Avoid, Discipline, Oppose, Denounce	Avoid, Oppose; perhaps discipline and denounce	Disagree	Discuss
<b>Biblical Response</b>	Separation Required	Separation Recommended	Separation Possible	Separation not Recommended or Required
<b>Level of Fellowship if Denied</b>	None	Limited	Possibly Limited	Unlimited