

The Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 20

Of Christian Liberty, and Liberty of Conscience

1. The liberty which Christ hath purchased for believers under the Gospel consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the curse of the moral law; and, in their being delivered from this present evil world, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin; from the evil of afflictions, the sting of death, the victory of the grave, and everlasting damnation; as also, in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto Him, not out of slavish fear, but a child-like love and willing mind. All which were common also to believers under the law. But, under the new testament, the liberty of Christians is further enlarged, in their freedom from the yoke of the ceremonial law, to which the Jewish Church was subjected; and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of.
2. God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are, in anything, contrary to His Word; or beside it in matters of faith, or worship. So that, to believe such doctrines, or to obey such commands, out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience: and the requiring of an implicit faith, and an absolute and blind obedience, is to destroy liberty of conscience, and reason also.
3. They who, upon pretence of Christian liberty, do practise any sin, or cherish any lust, do thereby destroy the end of Christian liberty, which is, that, being delivered out of the hands of our enemies, we might serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him, all the days of our life.
4. And because the powers which God hath ordained, and the liberty which Christ hath purchased, are not intended by God to destroy, but mutually to uphold and preserve one another, they who, upon pretence of Christian liberty, shall oppose any lawful power, or the lawful exercise of it, whether it be civil or ecclesiastical, resist the ordinance of God. And, for their publishing of such opinions, or maintaining of such practices, as are contrary to the light of nature, or to the known principles of Christianity (whether concerning faith, worship, or conversation), or to the power of godliness; or, such erroneous opinions or practices, as either in their own nature, or in the manner of publishing or maintaining them, are destructive to the external peace and order which Christ hath established in the Church, they may lawfully be called to account, and proceeded against, by the censures of the Church.

SERMON WORKSHEET
Sunday 31st July, 2011 - PM service
“How We Are Free”

READINGS: 1)..... 2).....
TOPIC:

INTRODUCTION

Cromwell was the F..... leader to give Jews the freedom to publicly worship in England
While a secular humanist would think this out of character for Cromwell he did it because:

a) their votes would help him b) he was under God's rule *Tick right box*

The American D..... of Independence shows the same concept of freedom

1 - THE BASIS FOR CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

We have already met with the concept of liberty in the Westminster Confession Ch ... Art ...

The liberty here has the A..... as it's been bought by Christ & given by the Holy Spirit

Charles Wesley described this as his C..... falling off

The real power of freedom isn't in freedom F..... but in freedom F.....

The difference between believers under the old covenant and the new is that:

a) what was before has now come fully in Christ b) they had to work for it

This means you're now free from being under others: TRUE / FALSE ? *Cross wrong one*

2 - THE PLACE OF A CHRISTIAN'S CONSCIENCE

Most of the time when this word is used that person is:

a) appealing to strong biblical principles b) trying to justify himself

In everything we need to be U..... God's Law

Our Reformation fathers showed they stood with what the apostle said in Acts :

The two tests to show the place of a Christian's conscience are:

1) whether something is not C..... to God's Word

Sinning here would be to allow someone else than God to I..... a rule on a conscience

2) whether or not something is A..... to God's Word

Sinning here is would be to B..... something that is not wrong in itself on a conscience

The real light to that zealous young man was being saved by Jesus: YES / NO ?

3 - THE EXCUSE OF CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

Many believers have confused Christian liberty with L.....

People are confused about this because they think the O..... to freedom is authority

You can see Christians becoming enslaved today in the R..... to Rome

There needs to be a B..... to Christian liberty as Galatians : says

Living by the Spirit means keeping in S..... with the Spirit

While Art. 3 deals with how this affects us personally, Art. 4 is about how we act P.....

The Reformed people in the Netherlands showed this by called their political party:

a) the Anti-Radical Party b) the Anti-Revolutionary Party

When public & private claims clash the former must give way to the latter: TRUE / FALSE ?

Any government restricting religious liberty will bring about a bitter H.....

We must always S..... whose we are by the freedom we have (1 Peter :