

## Christian Liberty (Part one)

Our freedom in Christ is a learned and developed thing.

Our moms cared for us daily while we developed and learned. They covered our lack of knowledge and experience. They did their best to warn us and protect us. Why? Love (They had the knowledge and the love to try and steer us in a direction for our benefit.)

Ultimately, the day came when we were free to use or ignore the lessons, they taught us.

They were a bridge of wisdom, if we listened.

In Christian leadership in a church, the same kind of bridge is to occur. (It is really what churches are for.)

The lost and the new converts need the love of a true disciple and church body.

In the world, many use their freedom and don't listen to their mom, and demand their independence foolishly.

The same thing happens in the spiritual world. Look...

### **Romans 7:10–11 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup>The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. <sup>11</sup>For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me.

But then we are born spiritually. (We begin as a spiritual infant, then if we develop sp. Child, young adult, adult/parent.)

We are set free from sin and death, but we are free to grow or be foolish and stay a child.

- 1.) Learned liberty- (Don't touch the electrical socket, watching for cars, etc. mom said, but eventually we used electricity, operated the streets, hopefully with the wisdom taught.)
  - a. The spiritual infant has rules too in stages. **Ultimately to allow us to serve God in the freedom of his truth!** (They don't make us more spiritual but lead us to that point.)

### **1 Corinthians 8:1–11 (ESV)**

**8** Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." This "knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. <sup>3</sup>But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. <sup>4</sup>Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup>For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup> However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup> Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do.

<sup>9</sup> But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup> And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.

b. **The meat they were eating was from the market, or from the idolatrous temples.**

(We all know that idols are not alive. They don't breathe, etc.) *But there are spiritual forces behind them!*

c. The meat to idols to a new convert was associated with the idols, and they were just set free from them, so they would get upset to see another Christian partaking. (The meat was not the problem; it is the worship of the idol.)

d. The self-righteous is normally the person who still needs to grow. (The more we learn, the more we can love others and shortcomings, because we got them too!)

- **Without knowledge they don't have discernment.** (Then it is developed.)
- The Christian grows in discernment with knowledge and love discipleship. (Edification)

**Philippians 1:9–11 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**Ephesians 4:15–16 (ESV)**<sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- There is no quick fix. If this doesn't happen, misunderstandings and conflict.
- Knowledge and love go together in discipleship.
- Spiritual infant, child, young adult, adult/parent

2.) A strengthened conscience- (To a new Christian any link to the old life can be perplexing) There is a wisdom developed over time with the new spiritual life. (Growth)

**Yes, we still drag the flesh around with us!**

1 Corinthians 8:10–13 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? <sup>11</sup> And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. <sup>12</sup> Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

A. Growth in obedience and truth develops the moral compass in a spiritual manner. (Strengthening the conscience.)

- B. The Christian must be developed the way that we developed as children physically.
- C. How many “saved” avoid fellowship, and church discipleship, thus they never grow into their liberty in Christ. (Just try to understand with the flesh.)
  - Don’t drive fast and reckless instruction or you could get killed instruction was replaced by a friend going fast and reckless being killed in my learning.
  - **Knowledge without love and patience in a church growth opportunity prevents the conscience from developing spiritually.**
  - Also, we need to understand that others around us maybe are new to this process. Discipleship requires responsibility to help others discover their spiritual liberty.

1 Corinthians 3:1–4 (ESV)

**3** But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, <sup>3</sup> for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? <sup>4</sup> For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

Hebrews 5:11–14 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. <sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, <sup>13</sup> for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup> But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

D. Verse 7- Easily defiled (polluted/old ways), 12 easily wounded, and 13 easily offended.

Conclusion

Are you easily polluted, wounded, offended? (You need to grow)

Do we help our spiritually developing family properly in discipleship?

Knowledge and love produce the caring necessary to protect the weaker.

Discipleship and allowing discipleship in the church is essential. (Responsibility is great)

Spiritual discernment comes through growth. (Word and disciple process.)

Philippians 2:12–13 (ESV)

### **Lights in the World**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.