

## Liberty Under Law James 1:25

The liberty that God has made available to mankind is limited by God. All liberty that is beneficial is limited by law. Unlimited liberty is anarchy. No reasonable person wants anarchy for himself or for anyone else. Paul urged Christians to "stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage", whether that yoke be the Law of Moses or sinful living.

**Galatians 5:1-4** *It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*

**2Peter 2:19** *promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.*

**Romans 6:15-23**

### Liberty Limited

We are not without law in Christ, but under law to Christ.

**1Corinthians 9:21** *to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law.*

Paul was born free (that is, he was a Roman citizen); yet he was subject to the law of Rome.

**Acts 22:28** *The commander answered, "I acquired this citizenship with a large sum of money." And Paul said, "But I was actually born a citizen."*

We live in a free and open society, but our liberty is limited by the laws of the United States. (Freedom of speech, but can't shout "fire" in crowded theatre) We are also free before God to choose to serve Him or to reject His instruction: yet that liberty is bounded by His decree of punishment for disobedience and blessedness for obedience.

**Joshua 24:14-28**

**Romans 2:1-11**

So then, our liberty is not without consequence or responsibility, but is liberty under law.

### Abusing Liberty

Immorality is the abuse of liberty. It occurs when people exceed the bounds of liberty imposed by law. It is one of the works of the flesh, which are outside the bounds of God's law.

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

Good civil laws protect society from abuses by individuals and by government by preventing immoral behavior. Civil laws are imperfect in this objective, but the law of God is complete to resolve the problem of excess and lawless behavior in the lives of all who properly submit to its authority. Exceeding the bounds of morality destroys the lives of those who practice such and contributes heavily to the ruin of society. The will of individuals in a free society must be to abide by the laws; and "where a state is most corrupt, there the laws are most multiplied" (Tacitus).

**Proverbs 14:34** *"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."*

### Liberty Serving

The solution to the woes of a nation and of every individual is that people receive the law of God and live by it, exercising their liberty in righteous living, and never allowing it to become a stumbling block to others

**1Corinthians 8:9** *But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak.*

**Romans 14:13** *Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.*

But doing good

**1Peter 2:15-16** *For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men. Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.*

Gilbert Alexander