

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Christian Liberty

The Liberty which we have in Christ has often been abused by members of the body of Christ. Paul dealt with the problem of Christian liberty in his letter to the Corinthians. Obviously the word “liberty” is used in a number of contexts in the New Testament. It is used to refer to our right to either do or omit those things which are optional as far as my responsibility is concerned. Paul specifically uses the eating of meats as an example. It is my liberty to either eat, or abstain. Neither act has any bearing upon my salvation. The word “liberty” is also used to describe freedom from the Law of Moses—whether it be the moral law, ceremonial law, or the Ten Commandments. Since the Old Law could not provide the answer to man’s sin problem, it had to be taken out of the way before a new law could be instituted (Romans 7:1-8; Ephesians 2:11-15). Finally, the word “liberty” is used to describe my freedom from sin—from the *power* of sin, from the *effect* of sin, and from the *consequences* of sin. History has taught us that personal liberty has always caused some problems in the body. This is especially true when one tries to determine what things fall into the realm of liberty and what things fall into the realm of faith. Careful consideration must be given to all the available information before one can dogmatically affirm that something is either a matter of “liberty” or a matter of “faith”. The fact that one has strong convictions about a given subject may cause confusion between the area of liberty and those things essential. When this happens it can result in friction and even division in a local congregation. In I Corinthians chapters 6, 8, 9 and 10, Paul sets forth some principles dealing with Christian liberty. These things help us in determining exactly when something should be classified as a “liberty” or whether it is “obligatory.” Religion is personal only in the sense that each one of us will have some personal *convictions* which lay in the area of the optional. Matters of liberty, i.e., matters that are optional, must not be pressed upon brethren as matters of doctrine, and matters of doctrine must not be relegated to the area of mere opinion.

Christian Liberty and things that Differ: In I Corinthians 6:12-13 Paul wrote: “All things are lawful for me; but not all things are expedient. All things are lawful for me; but I will not be brought under the power of any. Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall bring to nought both it and them. But the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body” (ASV). After the Corinthians had been converted they were confused in regard as to whether or not they should eat meat that had been offered to idols and then sold in the market place. Paul argues that it is of no significance; that one was not an idolater just because he ate meat that had, at some point earlier, been offered to an idol. One had liberty in this realm; to eat was not a sin, neither was abstaining from eating. However, under certain circumstances, the eating of that meat would not be *expedient*. To eat meat might be *lawful*, but it may not be wise or proper to do so for various reasons. It seems that some had taken Paul’s statement about the eating of meat and had tried to use it to justify the practice of fornication. They argued, “If the eating of these meats were morally indifferent, and a man is neither better nor worse from having eaten meat that had been associated with idols, then one was no better or worse for having participated in fornication which was also offered at the temple.” Paul’s answer consisted of several points in regard to our liberty. (1) Things morally wrong in and of themselves are *not* matters of liberty; they are wrong because they are forbidden by the law of Christ. (2) Things morally right *become*

wrong if they become one's master. "I will not be brought under the power of any." (3) Putting the eating of meat and fornication into the same category is to confuse things that differ. Paul clearly points out that "fornication is not for the body." The body of the Christian belongs to Christ and therefore cannot be used for immoral purposes and practices. If we follow these simple guidelines when considering our liberty in Christ, it will go a long way toward helping us understand our blessing of liberty and thus not abuse it.

—Tom Wacaster

Prayer Request

Larry May was taken to the ER at Medical Center Hospital Tuesday morning. He was having shortness of breath. Testing and X-rays were done which showed that Larry has a blood clot in one of his lungs (pulmonary embolism) which often happens following surgery. He is in CCU #18. Please keep him in your daily prayers.

Also, please keep the members of the **Burnett Chapel Church of Christ in Antioch, TN** in your prayers. They had a mass shooting last Sunday, September 24th following the services. **Melanie Crow**, who was a 39 year old mother, was shot and killed when leaving the church building and seven other members were shot inside the building and had to be hospitalized.

Concerns Update

Russel Rosser, (Dottie Fisher's son-in-law) was removed from ICU Saturday, September 23rd. The pneumonia is resolving and his oxygen level is good. Russel was scheduled to have an angiogram done Monday, September 25th only because of the improvement in his condition. Continue to keep him on your prayer list.

Prayer List

Tom Bauer; Lee Roy Bell, Jane Burroughs; Bill Butler; Harold Carrigan; John Cole; Sue Dahlen; Dayton Dennard; James & Joyce Drake; Glenda Driver; John Ford; Jennie Fuls; Hattie Gilmore; Maria Guzman; Anna Groves; Winford Hambright; Charlene Harris; Glenda Hillis; Janis Laminack; Betty Leeth; Kristen Limb; Eliseo Lopez; Alana May; Glenna McCarty; Russ Montgomery; Tanya Nichols; Curtis Parum; Trina Plyler; Russel Rosser; Elvia Ruckman; Ryan Charles Rutledge; Matthew Simmons; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Jurlean Warren; James Weaver; Lisa Wells; Ann Wilson; Glenda Winkley.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Janice Laminack; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Maxine Newton; Janelle Shirley; and Lester Whisenant.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military personnel and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question...

Whose friends sat with him in silence for seven days and nights to comfort him?

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer...

Feeding of the 5000 performed by Jesus is mentioned in all four gospels.

Events

Watch *“In Search of the Lord’s Way”* every Sunday morning at 7:00 am on KWES TV 9, (New West 9)

Also, tune in to hear a message from the Brown Trail Church of Christ on the *“Speaking the Truth in Love”* program every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. on ABC.

The *“20th Annual Lubbock Lectureship”* at the Southside Church of Christ in Lubbock is scheduled for October 8th–11th, 2017. The Theme is *“Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth.* The flyer showing all the speakers for this year is posted on the bulletin board.

Thank You

Thank you so much for the help, prayers and cards during this difficult time.

In Christ,
Ora McAfee

Baby Shower

A *“Baby Shower”* is planned for Larriat & Dewayne McGhee on Saturday, October 21st at 5:30 p.m. at Jeff & Holly Wesson’s home. Larriat is registered at Target, Walmart, and Amazon. Ladies, please come and join in on their celebration as they await the arrival of their second little son!

Christianity is Looking Up

“Looking up they saw the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large” (Mark 16:4). Three women wondered who would roll away the stone. They had their minds on completing the burial process of the Lord. But God had other plans. Better plans! Jesus rose from the dead! God moved the stone, not so our Lord could get out, but that they might enter to find Him raised. When we look up as those three wonderful women did, we can see what God wants us to see.

When we look up, we take our minds away from what we consider to be failures and catastrophes. (The disciples had their minds on a disappointing death instead of a remarkable resurrection). We are called to look up to see Christ seated at the right hand of God, victorious. (Colossians 3:1)

When we look up, we set our minds on things above, not things on the earth (Colossians 3:2). Christianity is looking up if we’ll keep our hearts and minds “looking up.”

–Rick Laing
Highland Village Church of Christ

October 1, 2017

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Larry May
Craig Wesson
Allen Weakland
Larry May
Josh Wells
Charles Wood
Bill Tolbert

P.M.

Larry May
Cody Wesson
Allen Weakland
Larry May
Dex Dennard
Bill Brown
Tom Sorenson

Lord's Supper

West...

Cody Wesson

Jacob Carson

Scot Straw

East...

Trinidad Wood

Jeff Wesson

Bill Ryan

Tony Marrs

Communion

(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder* : Larry May 638-3990; *Deacon*: Bill Ryan 272-5507; *Pulpit*: George Warren 557-2171; *Table*: Tony Marrs 553-7349; *Song Leaders*: Denny Wilson 325-340-2291; *Recording Duties*: Chris Butler 362-7486; *Collections*: Chris Butler 362-7486

Sunday AM

"Hideous Discovery"

(Mark 7:1-13)

Sunday PM

"Why I am a Member"

(1 Peter 3:15)

Our Records

Bible Class... 86

*Morning Worship...*121

*Evening Worship...*75

*Wednesday...*82

Contribution...\$5,723.00