



# Christian Freedom

## 1 Peter 2:13-17, 4:1-5, 5:5-11

1

<sup>13</sup> Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, <sup>14</sup> or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. <sup>15</sup> For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. <sup>17</sup> Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. 1 Peter 2:13-17

[The Holy Bible: New International Version](#). (1984)

### 1. What is Christian freedom?

The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.

Dictionary.com

OR

Freedom is the state that emerges after God has acted to remove all hindrances—social, spiritual (sin and death), economic, and institutional—that block our creational purpose.

This purpose is to know, love, worship, and enjoy God forever.

Lexham Theological Workbook

The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.

Exodus 7:16

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. <sup>2</sup> As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. <sup>3</sup> For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. <sup>4</sup> They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. <sup>5</sup> But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

1 Peter 4:1-5

### 2. What is it for? Worship

2

<sup>20</sup> Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. <sup>21</sup> What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

Romans 6:20-22

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Romans 6:16

<sup>5</sup> In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." <sup>6</sup> Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

<sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

<sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. <sup>11</sup> To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:5-11

### 3. How can we use it? Submit

"Submission is an act of faith. We are trusting God to direct in our lives and to work out His purposes in His time. After all, there is a danger in submitting to others; they might take advantage of us - The key, of course, is the phrase "in due time". God never exalts anyone until that person is ready for it. First the cross, then the crown; first the suffering, then the glory."

W. Wiersbe - Be Hopeful

#### Questions to consider this week:

1. How has culture affected how you read/interpret the idea of freedom?
2. How can I live freely and trust the will of God?
3. How can I live with the freedom God gives me in Christ without misusing that freedom to indulge my desires?
4. How can I love my fellow Christians, even when we disagree?
5. How can I honor unbelievers and respect the authority God has given them?