

Legalism, LICENSE, Liberty

December 30, 2004

DEFINITIONS:

- License:
 - A formal permission to do something, esp. authorization to drive a car, marry, practice medicine, hunt, etc.
 - A document, printed tag, permit, etc. indicating that such permission is granted.
 - Freedom to deviate from strict conduct, rule, or practice, generally permitted by common consent.
 - Excessive, undisciplined freedom, constituting an abuse of liberty.
 - Using freedom from the Law as an excuse to sin

Other Related Words:

- Licentious (adj):
 - Disregarding accepted rules and standards
 - Morally unrestrained, esp. in sexual activities
- Levity:
 - Lightness of disposition, conduct or speech, lack of seriousness, fickle, instability.
- Lascivious, Lewdness:
 - Excess licentiousness, absence of restraint, indecency, wantonness. Includes actions, conversation, lifestyle. References: Proceeds from the Heart: Mark 7:22 & 2 Cor. 12:21; Works of the flesh: Gal 5:22; One of the sins of which believers are warned: Rom 13:13

HOW CAN I KNOW IF I OR SOMEONE I KNOW IS THERE.....

IF I THINK:

- ... that the Bible tells me that because I am saved that I am free from the Law, so I can do what I want to.
- ... that I can keep on sinning because God will keep on forgiving me.
- ... that I can't ever loose my eternal security so I can do what I want to.
- ... those legal people are so strict, we certainly do not want to be like them.
- ... I can do whatever I want to even if other Christians are offended.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT...

- The Bible clearly speaks against license to sin in Romans 6:1,2 and 15 where it speaks about continuing in sin.
- In Ephesians, the Christians are exhorted to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called. (Eph. 4:1) They are further exhorted not to walk as the other Gentiles around them walk. In this passage, he lays out the basics of our salvation:
 - **Put off** concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt...
 - **Be renewed** in the spirit of your mind.
 - **Put on the new man**...put away lying...control your anger...do not give place to the devil... be kind one to another. Eph. 4: 22 - 32
- In 1 Peter 4:2 nearly the same exhortation is given, and Col. 3:5-7
- In Galatians 5:19 – 21 lasciviousness is listed as a work of the flesh.

HOW DO I KEEP WHERE CHRIST WANTS ME TO BE AND AVOID USING LICENSE TO SIN.....

1. **UNDERSTANDING SIN**: By having a right perspective of sin and its power:
 - a. We are born in sin (Psalms 51: 5)
 - b. Our carnal mind is enmity against God (Romans 8:7)
 - c. The Law cannot free me from sin, it only convicts me of my sin (Romans 7:21 – 25)
2. **LEARNING HOW WE ARE DELIVERED FROM SIN IN CHRIST** and applying it we will be free from sin and its power in our lives.
 - a. I must not continue in sin once I am saved. (Romans 6:1,2 & 15)
 - b. **Knowing this** that our old man is crucified with Him that the body of sin might be destroyed. (Romans 6:6)
 - c. **Reckon yourselves** to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God. (Romans 6:11)
 - d. **Let not sin** therefore reign in your mortal body (Romans 6:12)
 - e. **Yield yourselves** unto God (Romans 6:13)
3. **CONFESSING SIN** in my life and by not allowing my heart to become hardened to it. (1 John 1:9, 2:1,2; Hebrews 3:13)
4. **WALKING IN THE SPIRIT** and producing the fruit of the Spirit in my life. By letting His power deliver me from the flesh and its works. (Galatians 5:16-26)
5. **WE ARE A NEW CREATION**: We have a new life in Christ
 - a. We are a new creation in Christ (2 Cor 5:17) (2 Cor 5:21)
 - b. We are called to be His ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20)
 - c. We are made the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor 5:21)
6. **WE ARE TO BE SEPARATE**: We are called to a life of holiness. (2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Peter 1:13; Romans 6:22)
7. **ABIDE IN CHRIST** by studying the Word and continuing in prayer. (2 Tim 2:15; Eph 6:18). Know the will of GOD. (Eph. 5:17)
8. **WE ARE TO OBEY** our parents. (Prov. 6:20 – 22; Eph. 6: 1-3; Col. 3:20)
9. **SET OUR AFFECTIONS ABOVE**: By letting the Word be our compass and not the world. (Col 3:2-11; 1 John 2:14-17)
10. **PRESENT OUR BODIES** as a living sacrifice. (Romans 12: 1,2)
11. **OUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**, it is not our own. (1 Cor 6: 19 – 20)
12. **CHRISTIAN LIBERTY**: Learn to handle the liberty we have in Christ (Gal. 5:13)
13. By being sensitive to the conscience of other Christians (Rom. 14:10 – 19)
14. By keeping the **NEW COMMANDMENT**. (John 13:34)
15. By putting on the whole **ARMOR OF GOD**. (Eph. 6:13 – 20)
16. By doing the work of an **EVANGELIST**. (2 Tim 4:5)