

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements

Bill Brittenham

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Lord's Supper

Mike Davis Bill Rinehart
Sonny Monaghan Jerry Schnelle

Prayers

Mike Davis Matt Davis

SUNDAY EVENING

Announcements

Bill Brittenham

Song Leader

Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper

Mike Davis Bill Rinehart

Prayers

Jerry Schnelle Dave Massey

WEDNESDAY

Announcements

Jon Barry

Song Leader

Daniel Allgor

Prayers

Bill Brittenham Pete Rowland

Invitation

Jon Barry

ABOUT US

Elders

Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Deacons

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Dave Massey

Evangelist

Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.
Worship6:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study7:00 P.M.

WWW.TXKCHURCH.COM

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Acts 8:35-30

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

Think On These Things

Franklin Drive Church of Christ
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Issue 33

The Christian's Liberty

Bryan Garlock

We believe we are entitled to freedom. We enjoy freedom. We fight for freedom. We are disgusted when our freedoms are taken from us. Unfortunately, though, we sometimes become so active in fighting for our freedoms in this life that we overlook the freedoms we have in Christ – truly, the only freedoms about which we ought to be seriously concerned.

What are the Christian's freedoms? Many believe that since there is liberty in Christ that we are free to do as we please, but that cannot be farther from the truth. While it is true that Christians are free, it is what we are free from that is often misunderstood. First, we are free from sin (John 8.31-36; Rom. 8.2), and secondly, we are free from the law of Moses (Gal. 5.1; Rom. 7.1-6).

Does this include freedom from law in general? Certainly not!

James taught, "But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in

his doing." (1.25) Though the Bible is "the perfect law, the law of liberty", it is still a law that must be obeyed by a doer who acts in accordance with the law. In fact, grace teaches us to live upright and self-controlled lives (Titus 2.11-12). This is because God's grace was never meant to be a license to sin or a cover for sin, but a teacher of righteous living – living that does not transgress the law of Christ (Gal. 6.2). When Paul said we are no longer under law but under grace (Rom. 6.14), his point is not that we are no longer under any law (Rom. 5.13), but no longer under the law of Moses and no longer under a law that cannot save – since law brings wrath once it is transgressed (Gal. 2.16; 3.10; Rom. 4.15; Acts 13.39). Thus, there is law within grace, for without law we would not need grace!

Does this include freedom to do as we please? Absolutely not!

Paul wrote, "For one who has died has been set free from sin... and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins: **Willie Margaret Mobley, Bob Buls, Bonnie Allgor, Maxine Burnham, and Francine Davis.** Cards, calls and visits are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.

Melvin Potts is home recovering from his back surgery.

Jean Cronic had gall bladder surgery this past week.

Nancy Rowe's niece passed away last week.

GOSPEL MEETING

Gary Henry will be here for our Fall Gospel Meeting September 9-12.

Please see **Bryan** if you can volunteer your time to pass out fliers for the meeting.

Also, remember to sign the **Meal List** if you would like to have a meal with the preacher.

Also, we need as much help as possible from **the younger members and families** in preparing for the meeting.

(Rom. 12-14, 16-19). Just as one who is a sinner is free regarding righteousness – that is, he does not serve it – a saint is free regarding sin – that is, he does not serve it (Rom. 6.20).

Paul wrote, “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Gal. 5.13) Thus, freedom in Christ (Gal. 5.1) does not mean one can do whatever he wants to do – he is bound to love others as Christ loved him (see Gal. 5.14-26).

Peter wrote, “Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.” (1 Peter 2.16) Notice that while we are free in Christ, we are not free from service to God – we are enslaved to Him. Thus, Peter urges his readers to abstain from sin and live honorably before all men (1 Peter 2.11-12).

Does this include freedom to rebel against an oppressive government, divorce a harsh husband, or retaliate against a hard master? Definitely not!

Why is it that the Christian must endure these things and sometimes suffer miserably at the hands of unruly people?

Simply put, because even when we are under the control of a hard government, an unloving husband, or an unmerciful master, *we are still free in Christ.* Our freedom in Christ does not change when the circumstances change. For example, Paul taught all men that their obedience to God would be rewarded regardless of whether they were slaves or freemen (see Eph. 6.8). If we are free prior to a government becoming corrupt, marrying an abusive husband, or becoming a mistreated slave, we are free during those times too. What helps us to get through these tough times is not using our freedom to do evil but using our freedom to follow the example of Christ in suffering (carefully read 1 Peter 2.13 – 4.19; Eph. 6.5-9,

etc.). Peter summed up God’s instructions for the Christian who suffers by the hand of the evildoer: “Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.” (1 Peter 4.19)

Remaining godly while suffering proves our allegiance to God and our confidence that He will deliver our souls. We glorify Him with our good deeds – even when mistreated. When our conduct remains pure and honorable – and void of retaliation – we potentially win souls to Christ (1 Peter 2.12; 3.1-6).

Finally, God is not only going to vindicate and comfort those who are afflicted, He will afflict the afflicter (cf. 2 Thess. 1.5-10). Our righteous and impartial Judge has warned the oppressors and the abusers that “Vengeance is mine, I will repay” (Rom. 12.14-21). Therefore, “Masters... stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their [the abused] Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.” (Eph. 6.9)

It is a blessing to know that while we may face all kinds of hardships in this life, we are spiritually free awaiting physical freedom from this world. BG

Empathy

Gary Henry

OF ALL THE SUBJECTS WE MIGHT STUDY, PEOPLE ARE THE MOST PROFOUND. By far the most fascinating phenomenon around us, at least within the terrestrial sphere, people really do have to be studied in order to be known. It’s not easy. It takes both time and hard work to understand the other human beings with whom we cross paths. But the effort is well worth making, as anybody knows who has ever had the pleasure of understanding even one other person.

“Empathy” is a word that describes the knowledge of other people that we ought to strive for. While often used interchangeably with “sympathy” (which we’ll discuss tomorrow), “empathy” is an important word in its own right. It’s a character quality made up of two separate elements, both of which we need to work on.

Understanding. This is the first, and most obvious, component of empathy. When we empathize with another person, that means we listen to them and learn from them in a genuine effort to understand their situation. And this kind of learning requires more than a proficiency in theoretical psychology. As Mark Twain said, “One learns people through the heart, not the eyes or the intellect.”

Identification. Understanding another person’s situation does not, by itself, constitute empathy. To have empathy, we must also identify with the other person. In other words, we must be willing to stand with them, as if the situation were as much ours as it is theirs.

That we have so little empathy ought to be the cause of great concern. It ought to disturb us that we don’t know those around us any better than we do. Unfortunately, however, we spend most of our time worrying whether others understand us or not. This is a misplaced priority. Almost always, “whether we understand” should be dealt with before we turn our attention to “whether we’re being understood.” In the matter of understanding and empathy, there really is a sense in which it is more blessed to give than to receive.

“That others do not know you is no cause for grief; grieve that you do not know them” (Confucius). via WordPoint.com

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righteousness... But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.” (Rom. 6.7, 18, 22) Since we are set free from sin, we must use our bodies for the sake of righteousness by obeying God