

“Kingdom Citizens Live In Freedom”

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PART 1 of 2

The Kingdom is about
liberty & freedom

It's not about bondage

What sort of FREEDOM is that?

I know you won't accept what I
say unless it's in the Bible so I'll
start there

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty
by which Christ has made us free”*

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV)

The NT writers sounded the alarm to the 1st church – 'don't go back into bondage'.

The clearest one of these warnings was from Paul.

*“do not be entangled again with
a yoke of bondage”*

Galatians 5:1b (NKJV)

What was the bondage that the apostles were concerned about?

It was the bondage of the **Law**.

“Tell me, you who are bent on being under the Law, will you listen to what the Law [really] says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondmaid and one by the free woman. But whereas the child of the slave woman was born according to the flesh and had an ordinary birth, the son of the free woman was born in fulfillment of the promise...

Galatians 4:21-26 (AMPC)

“Now all this is an allegory; these [two women] represent two covenants. One covenant originated from Mount Sinai [where the Law was given] and bears [children destined] for slavery; this is Hagar. Now Hagar is (stands for) Mount Sinai in Arabia and she corresponds to and belongs in the same category with the present Jerusalem, for she is in bondage together with her children...

“But the Jerusalem above (the Messianic Kingdom of Christ) is free, and she is our mother.”

Galatians 4:21-26 (AMPC)

What is the all-encompassing term that means bound to the law?

LEGALISM

Legalism occurs when a person is enslaved to rules, regulations & habits.

Not just the Torah (Jewish Law)

In NT times, the gentiles were also in bondage to religion – only the god worshipped was different.

Both groups were in bondage.

“But at that previous time, when you had not come to be acquainted with and understand and know the true God, you [Gentiles] were in bondage to gods who by their very nature could not be gods at all [gods that really did not exist]. Now, however, that you have come to be acquainted with and understand and know [the true] God, or rather to be understood and known by God...

Galatians 4:8-9 (AMPC)

*“how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly and worthless elementary things [of all religions before Christ came], whose **slaves** you once more want to become?”*

Galatians 4:8-9 (AMPC)

All forms of religion & legalism
contain spiritual symbols and
ceremonies.

**These are not the realities of
the Kingdom.**

As far as the Kingdom is concerned,
legally observing any component of
religion shows:

IMMATURITY

*“how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in **bondage**? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have **labored for you in vain.**”*

Galatians 4:9b-11 (AMPC)

Who were these people Paul was addressing?

Believers who wanted to go back into religion.

What was causing this reversal to
religion?

There were those who came into their fellowships wanting to take them back to Judaism and the Law (Torah).

They are referred to as 'Judaisers'.

*“And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our **liberty** which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage)”*

Galatians 2:4 (NKJV)

There were also those wanting to take them back into paganism.

How do we know?

This is how we know:

Jesus indicted the churches in Thyatira
& Pergamos for not getting rid of
'Jezebel' or the Nicolaitans.

(Revelation 2:14-15, 20)

Anything that enslaves you or controls
you has removed your **Kingdom**
freedom and placed you into bondage.

Sinful living is one thing that does this.

*“While they promise them **liberty**, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”*

2 Peter 2:19a (NKJV)

Even the **fear of death** and **judgement** which causes us to stick with religion in the hope of deliverance is a form of bondage.

Christ's death sets us free from that bondage.

“And also that He might deliver and completely set free all those who through the [haunting] fear of death were held in bondage throughout the whole course of their lives.”

Hebrews 2:15 (AMPC)

Even if we don't adhere to Judaism or the Torah Law, but adhere to any other form of law – such as the 10 Commandments – we are actually in **bondage**, not freedom.

DON'T BE FOOLED

Living by the 10 Commandments is the foundation of many of the denominations and it is just as religious as the religion of the non-protestant organisations.

Here's the origin of the word 'religion':

'Religion': from 're-ligature'

= 're-bind'

= 'bring back into bondage'

You see, religion is bondage because it is legalism – it's 'legal', i.e. based on a system of law.

All legalism is an extreme form of religion (bondage)

The Kingdom brings
freedom

Licentiousness pretends to give freedom, but it brings bondage instead.

“They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been enslaved to anyone. What do You mean by saying, ‘You will be set free?’” Jesus answered, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, everyone who practices sin habitually is a slave of sin. Now the slave does not remain in a household forever; the son [of the master] does remain forever. ”

John 8:33-35 (AMP)

Here's the killer:

*“by whom a person is **overcome**, by him also he is brought into bondage.”*

2 Peter 2:19b (NKJV)

**Whatever you can't control,
controls YOU.**

Whether it's sex, pornography, drugs,
chocolate, TV, or just plain food, etc.,
any of these can have you in bondage.

Here's proof of the liberty and
freedom of the Kingdom

“because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”

Romans 8:21 (NKJV)

“But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.”

1 Corinthians 8:8-9 (NKJV)

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV)

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ”

Galatians 5:13 (NKJV)

“So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty.”

James 2:12 (NKJV)

“For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men—as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.”

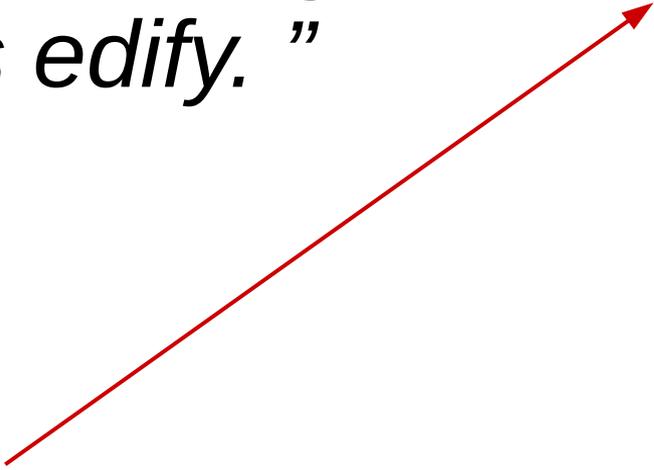
1 Peter 2:15-16 (NKJV)

Take note of this
next one...

“All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify. ”

1 Corinthians 10:23 (NKJV)

i.e. Freedom to do it



In the Amplified:

“All things are lawful [that is, morally legitimate, permissible], but not all things are beneficial or advantageous. All things are lawful, but not all things are constructive [to character] and edifying [to spiritual life].”

1 Corinthians 10:23 (AMP)

Does that mean Kingdom
citizens are anarchists?



“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority?...

Romans 13:1-7 (NKJV)

“Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God’s minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God’s minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience’ sake...”

Romans 13:1-7 (NKJV)

“For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God’s ministers attending continually to this very thing. Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor.”

Romans 13:1-7 (NKJV)

**So, FREEDOM is only from
the bondage of
religion and legalism**

We still have sound doctrine to
live by

This includes the Jerusalem Council's advice to gentile believers:

- ABSTAIN from anything that has been contaminated by [being offered to] idols,
- from sexual impurity,
- from [eating the meat of] what has been strangled, &
- from [the consumption of] blood.

Also the Noahide Laws

The Noahide laws:

(1) Do not worship idols: Worship the one true God alone.

(2) Do not commit blasphemy: Cursing the name of God is forbidden. We must honour and respect God in our speech.

The Noahide laws:

(3) Do not murder: The death penalty is for murderers, administered if there is one testifying.

(4) Do not commit sexual sins: Incest, adultery, bestiality, homosexuality, and rape are forbidden.

(5) Do not steal

The Noahide laws:

(6) Do not eat blood or flesh cut from a living animal.

(7) Do establish courts of justice:
Create courts to enforce the first six laws and create new useful laws or customs.

So, religion and legalism are the
bondages that takes away
Kingdom Freedom

But what are these?

Anything that:

- We do out of habit as a Christian
- We must do to please God
- We feel sinful or unholy about if we don't do it, even though it's righteous
- We regard as God-ordained which is not
- Is not birthed in the Spirit but we do for spiritual reasons

Remember Paul writing this?

*“how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? **You observe days and months and seasons and years.** I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.”*

Galatians 4:9b-11 (AMPC)

What are our safeguards you ask?

We have these:

- Sound doctrine
- Being Spirit-led – *the most important*
- Having plural eldership
- Having apostolic & prophetic oversight
- Being open & accountable in community

Remember Paul doing this?

*“...they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith...So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, **they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed...**”*

Acts 14:21-23 (NKJV)

And then they left

Here's the rub:

The sons of God are led
by his Spirit

“For all who are allowing themselves to be led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

Romans 8:14 (AMP)

If we aren't being led by the Spirit, then we don't align with our King and we are outside of his desired will

Partnering with him requires
doing everything he shows
us out of our love for him

That's what 'co-working' with
God means

(1 Corinthians 3:9)

Don't **fool** yourself about
religion...

...it's in the church, but not in
the Kingdom

Check yourself out.

Do you...

- Have a Christian bumper sticker to get your message out there?
- Believe all religions serve Jehovah?
- Refuse to believe anything that's not in the Bible or your teaching from it?
- Feel agitated because you didn't have 'communion' when you usually do?
- Refuse to allow sinners the right to choose to sin by being aggro towards them?
- Feel sinful if you don't/can't celebrate Christmas and Easter in the church's way?
- Feel free within yourself to miss a Sunday morning meeting to do something else?
- Find you can't bring yourself to listen to secular radio or TV?
- Find yourself quoting the Bible reference when people quote a scripture?
- Use the words “Church Service” because you believe that attending one is how you serve God?

What about these?

- Quote the bible when you talk to people, rather than speaking what the Spirit gives you?
- Prefer to read the Bible, instead of listening to Jesus speak to you?
- Sing hymns or spiritual songs, rather than the song the Spirit gives you?
- Put money in the collection, without asking the Lord whether to do so or not?
- Tithe because it's 'scriptural', but don't give of everything else you possess, including you?
- Go to meetings on Sunday, without asking the Spirit what you should do?
- Listen with your mind when someone is teaching, rather than listening with your spirit?
- Write notes during teaching, rather than waiting for the Spirit to drop *rhema* into your spirit?
- Believe sin is breaking commandments, instead of falling short of God's standard anytime?
- Want to talk to Christians about church and the Bible, instead of matters of the Spirit?
- Focus on the cross, instead of the current things of the Kingdom?
- Have scripture reference on your walls, instead of Kingdom awareness on your mind?
- Find anger rises up in a discussion over false doctrine, instead of speaking from the Spirit?
- Believe life is inherently evil, instead of being a gift from Father?
- Focus life around church, instead of in your sonship?
- Long to be in a church building to be close to God, instead of always feeling his presence?
- Have an attitude to do what's right, instead of what's righteous?
- Love the cross, more than the resurrected person who died on it?

Do you live in this?

“A slave is a transient, who can’t come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house. So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through”

i.e. Totally FREE

John 8:35-36 (MSG)

I rest my case

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