

1 Peter 2:16

by John Gill

The sermon explores the concept of true Christian freedom, emphasizing accountability and servanthood in the context of God's laws and civil authority.

Scripture: John 8:36, Romans 6:18, 1 Corinthians 10:23, Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 6:5-8, Colossians 3:22-24, 1 Timothy 6:1-2, Titus 3:1, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 2:16

Topics: "Christian Liberty", "Responsibility in Freedom"

Description

John Gill emphasizes the dual nature of freedom for converted Jews, highlighting their liberty in Christ as well as the responsibility that comes with it. While they are free from sin and the law's condemnation, this freedom does not grant them the license to sin or disregard civil authority. Instead, true freedom in Christ calls for servitude to God and obedience to earthly authorities, reflecting a life that honors both divine and civil laws. Gill warns against using Christian liberty as an excuse for malicious behavior, urging believers to act with integrity and accountability.

Transcript

Ver. 16. As free,.... These converted Jews might value themselves on their freedom, partly as the descendants of Abraham, and so freeborn, and not to be brought into bondage to other people; and chiefly because of their liberty which they had in and by Christ Jews. The apostle allows that they were freemen, that they were Christ's freemen, were free from sin, its damning and domineering power, and from the curses and condemnation of the law, and had freedom of access to God, and a right to all the privileges and immunities of the house of God; but then they were not free to sin, and to live in the contempt of the laws of God and men, to despise government, speak evil of dignities, and break in upon the rules of civil society:

and not using your liberty as a cloak of maliciousness; under a pretence of Christian liberty, to hurt the persons, properties, and estates of men, without looking upon themselves accountable for their conduct to their superiors: some think the apostle alludes to the ancient custom of servants, who, when they were made free, walked with a cap, or covering on their heads, in token of it: it follows,

[but] as the servants of God; for they that are free are the servants of God and Christ, and show themselves to be so by submitting to and obeying those that are under them, and ordained by them; and which is no ways inconsistent with, and contrary to their Christian liberty, which never was designed to thwart and subvert the principles of natural religion, laws of a moral nature, or the rules of civil

government; some instances of which are next mentioned.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/john-gill/1-peter-216/>

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