

“Woman To Woman” *Free To Be Me!*

For many years now, we have heard the clamoring of some women who say that they want to be “free.” They do not want the confines of having to answer to anyone. They do not want to have their husband, or anyone else for that matter, telling them what they may or may not do. They want equal opportunities as their male counterparts and they want all of the benefits that go with it. They want to be free to join the workforce, free to have and leave their children, free to choose any career they please and to come and go as they wish. In reality, such freedom is non-existent, not for women, nor for men. With freedoms such as the above come responsibilities. Careers, families and jobs all demand rules, and regulations, which essentially nullify freedom. Furthermore, women have many freedoms, of which they may not even be aware.

As we look at the Scriptures, it is evident that God’s women have always been treated with respect and dignity. “Under the Hebrew system the position of woman was in marked contrast with her status in surrounding heathen nations. Her liberties were greater, her employments more varied and important, her social standing more respectful and commanding.” (from International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, Electronic Database Copyright 1996, 2003, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc.) In Galatians 3:28 we read, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Women are **equal** with men in the sight of God with regard to their salvation. Our roles are different than that of our male counterparts, but our liberties in Christ are the same. **We are free to teach,**

to spread the gospel, to worship, to lead godly lives and to inherit eternal life, just as our male counter parts, as long as we do so within the confines of what God has told us is acceptable. (See the tract: “*Woman to Woman – Does God Have A Role For Me?*”). Both the Father and the Son have always delegated the utmost respect for godly women who served the Lord in truth and spirit. This is evident in both the Old and New Testaments. Jesus showed great love and compassion for the women with whom He was acquainted when He walked this earth. Our Father in heaven always provided for the welfare of women and this is readily seen throughout the Bible.

Liberty is a precious commodity. It comes with a price; for the Christian that premium was the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 7:22-24; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Acts 20:28). It is not to be taken lightly, for granted or abused. Too often we use this cloak of liberty to bind upon others what God has not bound. Many have tried to insist that with this God-given liberty, women **must** go out and pursue a career, find a job, make their “mark” in life. Some have even gone so far as to make fun of, or condemn those who have chosen to be homemakers, mothers, or wives who wish to stay at home. That is the influence of the world creeping in. While it may not be sinful for a woman to take a job outside of the home, she certainly has the liberty to be a fulltime homemaker, should she choose to do so. Television, magazines, the media would have us to believe that the stay-at-home wife/mother is simply lazy. Nothing could be further from the truth! The godly woman who has chosen to stay home is to be commended if she is doing what the Lord would have her to do. Titus 2:3-5 gives us a thorough description of what women are to be: “The aged women likewise, that they be

in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” That is a full time job in and of itself, ladies! Never once does it mention that she must leave the home and pursue job, career, or anything else. If one is a stay-at-home wife/mother, there is no excuse for this commandment to be neglected.

Contrariwise, the woman who is working outside of the home; the godly woman who is fulfilling her duties as Christian, wife, mother, or whatever situation she is in, should not be condemned by those who have chosen to stay in the home. Her life may be more difficult, as she will have less time to balance her spiritual and family life because of limited time. There are situations where a woman may **have** to work outside of the home: death, divorce, illness, disability or unemployment of a husband, to name a few. If it is sinful for a woman to work outside of the home, then regardless of the circumstance under which she labors, she would be sinning. It does not, however, dismiss the one who works outside of the home, from carrying out the commandments of Titus 2:3-5. That is her Christian responsibility, as well as the responsibility of the one who stays in the home. This is of paramount importance. Any other work she does is secondary to the role that God has assigned her.

The ideal situation for women with children in the home would be to stay home with the children. That has always been God’s plan for us. Nevertheless, we need to realize that every woman’s circumstances are different, and we need to be very careful when we

make attempts to judge others.

Repeatedly, the New Testament refers to our liberty in Christ. Most often it is done by comparing the Old Law to The New Covenant, for which Christ gave His life. The New Covenant is shown to be the “better way.” The writer of the book of Hebrews emphasizes this over and over. It is the perfect way; it was in the mind of God before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4). James tells us to look to the perfect law of liberty. “But whoso looketh into the **perfect law of liberty**, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed,” (James 1:25). As Christian women, we need to use our freedom in Christ to glorify God. That is the most important job we will ever have. We need to be serving others, as well as our families. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:16, “As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.” In verse nine of this same chapter he reminds us that we are a “chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people,” the purpose of which is to show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness. All the more reason that we need to consider one another’s liberty to make choices so long as they do not conflict with the Word of God. How will the world see us showing forth the praises of God if we are continually criticizing our sisters in Christ? Everything we do in word or in deed should be done in Jesus’ name, giving thanks to the Father (Colossians 3:17).

In the Bible (KJV), the Greek word *zeelos* is translated, “emulations.” Adam Clarke defines it: “emulations, envies; that is strife to excel at the expense of another; lowering others to set up one’s self; unholy zeal, fervently adopting a bad cause, or supporting a good one by cruel means.”

Ladies, let us never be found guilty of this – it is one of the works of the flesh cited in Galatians 5:19-20. Rather, let us love one another with a pure heart fervently (1 Peter 1:22), and let us be, “fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love (Ephesians 4:16). Working together, as sisters in Christ, we can show forth the light of the glorious gospel of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4). Let us hold up one another’s hands as Aaron and Hur did for Moses while Joshua battled with Amelek in Exodus 17:12, and we will win the battle for the Lord as we labor together in His kingdom.

As we keep in mind that we all have liberty and freedom in Christ, we need to understand that we are only free from sin when we obey the truth (John 8:32), and when freed from sin, we become servants of God (Romans 6:22). That is a privilege, not a burden. Each of us has different circumstances in our individual lives and must learn to deal with them in a way that would be pleasing to God. Most importantly let us remember these freedoms and blessings the Lord has given us: the blood of Christ, the church, His Holy Word, prayer, His love, kindness, and goodness. These cost us nothing, but cost Him everything! May we all take advantage of these freedoms and blessings as we work together in His kingdom.

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International Bible Studies
Tract Series