

WCF Prayer:

Chapter 20 - Of Christian Liberty & Liberty Of Conscience

Holy and Majestic God,

We praise you for the gift of life you breathe into us.

We delight in the knowledge that through the cross of Calvary, Jesus Christ has purchased a life of wonderful freedom for all who trust in him. We praise you that despite our many sins Christ has purchased freedom:

- From the guilt of sin
- From the condemning wrath we deserve
- From the curse of the moral law

Lord God, what grace you lavish on us that all who believe are delivered from the grip of this present evil world. Lord praise you that;

- We are no longer in bondage to Satan,
- We are no longer under the dominion of our own sin natures
- We are freed from having to submit to the evil that accompanies us through life

We praise you that we are freed by Christ's cross and resurrection from the sting of death. He has purchased for us victory over the grave and gifts all who trust in Him, freedom from everlasting condemnation and separation from you.

Lord we marvel that faith in Christ brings glorious free access to you and you grow within us an obedience not out of slavish fear, but with a wonderful new child-like love and willing mind.

Lord we know that all of this was within the grasp of believers who lived in time of the law before Jesus was incarnate.

But, we praise you that since the New Testament era this liberty is enlarged in that we are free from the burden of the ceremonial law (under which Jewish nation had to live) and free to access your throne of grace with greater boldness.

Heavenly Father, we delight that in this era your Spirit communicates more freely your word and will to us than He did to those previously under the law.

Lord only you are Lord of our consciences. We praise you that you have given us freedom from the doctrines and commandments of men where contrary to your

Word. You have given us freedom from all that would add to your will regarding matters of faith and worship.

Lord we have come to recognise that to submit ourselves to such doctrines or commandments of men would be to betray the very liberty of conscience you have gifted us.

Lord you do not ask us to have faith in the commands or doctrines of men or to blindly obey these because to do so would destroy the liberty of conscience and biblical reasoning that you grant us.

But what shame we have Lord when use liberty as an excuse to practise sin, or hold lusts in our heads and hearts. Forgive us Lord because we know this is not the point of Christian liberty. Rather, Lord we recognise to sin in this liberty destroys that very liberty because it was meant for freedom from these enemies of sin.

We delight that this liberty gives us the ability to not serve our own sinful appetites but to serve you without fear in holiness and righteousness.

We have come to understand Lord that this liberty does not release us from the obeying the lawful authorities you put over us whether in the church or in our nation.

This liberty you grant us is not for making known an opinion or undertaking a practice that is contrary to the light of nature or to the known principles laid out for us as New Testament believers regarding faith and worship or general conversation regarding godliness.

Lord may we never use this Christian liberty to have erroneous opinions and practices which destroy the peace and order Christ has established in His Church.

Lord we acknowledge that should we use Christian liberty to such an end, we would rightly be held accountable in the Church or the State by the appropriate authority.

Lord God, what a gift this Christian Liberty is.

In Jesus Name,

Amen