

Liberty and the Standards of Jesus

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free... —Galatians 5:1

A spiritually-minded person will never come to you with the demand— “Believe this and that”; a spiritually-minded person will demand that you align your life with the standards of Jesus. We are not asked to believe the Bible, but to believe the One whom the Bible reveals (see John 5:39-40). We are called to present liberty for the conscience of others, not to bring them liberty for their thoughts and opinions. And if we ourselves are free with the liberty of Christ, others will be brought into that same liberty— the liberty that comes from realizing the absolute control and authority of Jesus Christ.

Always measure your life solely by the standards of Jesus. Submit yourself to His yoke, and His alone; and always be careful never to place a yoke on others that is not of Jesus Christ. It takes God a long time to get us to stop thinking that unless everyone sees things exactly as we do, they must be wrong. That is never God’s view. There is only one true liberty— the liberty of Jesus at work in our conscience enabling us to do what is right.

Don’t get impatient with others. Remember how God dealt with you— with patience and with gentleness. But never water down the truth of God. Let it have its way and never apologize for it. Jesus said, “Go...and make disciples...” (Matthew 28:19), not, “Make converts to your own thoughts and opinions.”

Devotional by: Oswald Chambers

<http://utmost.org/liberty-and-the-standards-of-jesus/>

Psalm 81

- (1) Sing aloud to God our strength;
shout for joy to the God of Jacob!
- (2) Raise a song; sound the tambourine,
the sweet lyre with the harp.
- (3) Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
at the full moon, on our feast day.
- (4) For it is a statute for Israel,
a rule of the God of Jacob.
- (5) He made it a decree in Joseph
when he went out over the land of Egypt.
I hear a language I had not known:
- (6) “I relieved your shoulder of the burden;
your hands were freed from the basket.
- (7) In distress you called, and I delivered you;
I answered you in the secret place of thunder;
I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah
- (8) Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
- (9) There shall be no strange god among you;
you shall not bow down to a foreign god.
- (10) I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.
- (11) “But my people did not listen to my voice;

Israel would not submit to me.

(12) So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts,
to follow their own counsels.

(13) Oh, that my people would listen to me,
that Israel would walk in my ways!

(14) I would soon subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes.

(15) Those who hate the Lord would cringe toward him,
and their fate would last forever.

(16) But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat,
and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”