

## Liberty Church Values: 7. We are a free and powerful people

We believe that every individual has been created for a purpose, equipped and empowered by God to fulfil that purpose and has been given the incredible gift of free will to choose to, or not to choose to carry out that purpose. It is the driving, unflinching desire of Liberty church to help every child of God to become all that they have been born to be and achieve all they have been born to do, through liberating biblical teaching, loving pastoral support and the living examples of God centred leadership.

### Study sections:

- 1/. Free will is a grace given gift.
- 2/. Being Powerful is a part of the package.
- 3/. The Attitude of Leadership when addressing the congregation In the context of submission.
- 4/. The Attitude of the congregation when addressing the leadership In the context of submission.
- 5/. Conclusion

#### 1/. Free will is a grace given gift.

From the beginning it was always Gods plan for man.

- Free will is bestowed upon us by God.

Genesis 1 : 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Let **THEM** have Dominion ( To tread down, subjugate, reign, make to rule )

Genesis 2 : 20 So **Adam gave names** to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. Adam gave names. He chose. ( Not, "I will do it for him" )

- Free will to make right choices is encouraged by God.

Genesis 4 : 6-7 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but **you should rule over it.**"

Deuteronomy 30 : 19. I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; **therefore choose** life, that both you and your descendants may live;

You choose. Free will and the power to live.



- Free will is confirmed by God through the ages.

Psalm 8 : 6 : You have **made him to have dominion** over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* **under his feet**.

Under his feet. Free will and the power to rule.

- Free will is confirmed and exercised by Jesus.

John 10:18 No one takes it from Me, but **I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.** This command I have received from My Father."

Free will and the power to choose.

- Free will is confirmed and exercised by The Apostle Paul.

Philippians 1: 21-24 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; **yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.** For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

Paul had the free will and power to choose.

- Free will is confirmed with an invitation to choose life in the last days.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. **Whoever desires, let him take** the water of life freely.

Free will and power to take the water of life. Take. To get hold of.

**Water:** Symbolic of both The Word of life and the Holy Spirit of life.

God has given us the incredible gift of free will. Even God Himself gives us the choice to obey or disobey Him. To follow or walk away. Despite the fact that He has given everything to see us made whole, healed and delivered from every effect sin has had on us, He still doesn't force us to do anything we don't want to.

We should be no different when relating to one another in the kingdom of God. ( covered in Sections ahead )

## **2/. Being Powerful is a part of the package.**

From the beginning it was always Gods plan for man to make choices for himself, but mankind was also endued with the power and authority to carry out those choices.

Genesis 1 : 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."



Mark 11:23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, **he will have whatever he says.**

Luke 10:19 Behold, **I give you the authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

John 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, **the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these** he will do, because I go to My Father. Acts : And you will be witnesses for me.

1 John 4 : 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; **because as He is, so are we in this world.**

Revelation 5: 9-10 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And **have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."**

## A POWERFUL PEOPLE

- We have been given a voice through which we are to proclaim the good news.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive **power (Dunamis , miracle working power )** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- We have been given a voice through which we are to declare our identity.

Psalm 107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

**Say so: Means** To answer, boast, challenge, command, declare.

When the devil attacks, we should respond and not stay silent. (against spiritual enemies not people)

- We have been given a voice through which we are to create.

Romans 4:17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

We have been given the power to speak things into being. **The Holy Spirit hovering over creation as in genesis, waiting for us to speak.**



- We have been given a voice through which we are to deliver the oppressed and heal the sick.

Matthew 8:16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits **with a word**, and healed all who were sick, Gods word in our mouth is just as powerful as Gods word in His own mouth.

### **3/. The Attitude of Leadership when addressing the congregation In the context of submission.**

How do we navigate church life, how do we build a church structure that needs order and leadership without violating peoples free will?

- Biblical submission should be respected not just expected.  
We do expect submission as part of biblical servanthood, but with respect for volunteers and their right to chose.
- Biblical submission should be seen as and act of humble and powerful servitude, not fearful or dutiful surrender.
- Biblical submission should be seen as and motivated by equipping not stripping.  
(always helping to grow not destroy)
- Biblical submission should be demonstrated not demanded. (not "do as I say and not do as I do") You can only be a great leader by first being a great follower . (greatest in the kingdom)
- Biblical discipline should come from a motive of protective firmness not propagating fear ( to spread or promote fear).

### **In context of teaching the congregation about free will.**

- Freedom of choice is to be grasped.  
God said, "**have dominion**". We should teach people they have the freedom and the right to choose. Lay hold of your God given gift of free will and have dominion over your life.
- Freedom of choice is to be guided.  
Hebrews 3:13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

2 Timothy 2:1-2 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.



- Freedom of choice is to be guarded.

God said in Genesis 4 : 6-7 "Sin lies at the door, (**crouches like a lion waiting to pounce on its prey**) but you should rule over it (**or master it**)

2 Timothy 2:24-26 And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and **that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.**

Control should never be enforced.

#### **4/. The Attitude of the congregation when addressing the leadership In the context of submission.**

- Biblical submission should be expected and respected.

Hebrews 13 :17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

- Biblical submission should be seen as a privilege I get to perform, not a burden to which I have to bow down.

Philippians 2: 12-14 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. **Do all things without complaining and disputing**, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

- Biblical submission should be done knowingly not blindly.

Ephesians 5:15-17 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

You do not have to submit to anything that is unbiblical, immoral, illegal or unethical. "understand what the will of the Lord is".

- Biblical submission should be seen as a positive heart felt gesture towards and for the lord, not as a negative heart breaking necessity, DEMANDED BY the leadership.

Colossians 3:23-24 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.



In order to be a great leader, you first have to be a great follower. (King David)

### **Conclusion**

The ultimate desire of God for us is to use our God given gift of free will to choose life. To use our freedom from satan and sins power to make the right choices. To submit where we need to submit and stand where we need to stand. Wisdom is the ability to know the difference and then with our God given power and authority, do the right thing.

