

An Exposition of the 2nd (1689) London Baptist Confession
Chapter 21.1: Of Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience

21.1 The liberty which Christ has purchased for believers under the gospel, consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the severity and curse of the law,^a and in their being delivered from this present evil world,^b bondage to Satan,^c and dominion of sin,^d from the evil of afflictions,^e the fear and sting of death, the victory of the grave,^f and everlasting damnation:^g as also in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto Him, not out of slavish fear,^h but a child-like love and willing mindⁱ All which were common also to believers under the law for the substance of them;^j but under the New Testament the liberty of Christians is further enlarged, in their freedom from the yoke of a ceremonial law, to which the Jewish church was subjected, and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of.^k

^a Gal. 3:13 ^b Gal. 1:4 ^c Acts 26:18 ^d Rom. 8:3 ^e Rom. 8:28 ^f 1 Cor. 15:54–57 ^g 2 Thess. 1:10 ^h Rom. 8:15; ⁱ Luke 1:73–75; 1 John 4:18 ^j Gal. 3:9, 14 ^k John 7:38–39; Heb. 10:19–21

1. The liberty which Christ has purchased for believers under the gospel...
 - a. Consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin (Romans 8:1).
 - b. Consists in their freedom from the condemning wrath of God.
 - c. Consists in their freedom from the severity and curse of the law (Galatians 3:13).
 - d. Consists in their being delivered from this present evil world (Galatians 1:4).
 - e. Consists in their being delivered from bondage to Satan (Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:13).
 - f. Consists in their being delivered from dominion of sin (Romans 8:3).
 - g. Consists in their being delivered from the evil of afflictions (Romans 8:28).
 - h. Consists in their being delivered from the fear and sting of death (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).
 - i. Consists in their being delivered from the victory of the grave.
 - j. Consists in their being delivered from everlasting damnation (2 Thessalonians 1:9-10).

2. The liberty which Christ has purchased for believers under the gospel also consists...
 - a. In their free access to God (Ephesians 2:17-18).
 - b. In their yielding obedience unto Him
 - i. Not out of slavish fear (Romans 8:15; Luke 1:74).
 - ii. But from a child-like love and willing mind (1 John 4:18-19).
3. All which were common also to believers under the law for the substance of them (Galatians 3:9 and 14).
4. But under the New Testament the liberty of Christians is further enlarged...
 - a. In their freedom from the yoke of a ceremonial law.
 - b. In greater boldness of access to the throne of grace (Hebrews 10:19-20: Hebrews 10:19-20; 4:16).
 - c. In fuller communications of the free Spirit of God (John 7:38).