

Colossians 2:16-23 Logical Progression

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you
in questions of food
and drink,
or with regard to a festival
or a new moon
or a Sabbath.

17 These are a shadow of the things to come,
but the substance belongs to Christ.

18 Let no one disqualify you,
insisting on asceticism
and worship of angels,
going on in detail about visions,
puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind,

19 and not holding fast to the Head,
from whom the whole body,
nourished and knit together
through its joints
and ligaments,
grows with a growth that is from God.

20 If with Christ you died
to the elemental spirits of the world,
why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations

21 "Do not handle,
Do not taste,
Do not touch"

- 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)
—according to human precepts and teachings?

23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom
in promoting self-made religion
and asceticism
and severity to the body,
but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

WCF Chapter 20

Of Christian Liberty of Conscience

20.1

The liberty which Christ hath purchased for believers under the gospel consists
in their freedom from
the guilt of sin,
the condemning wrath of God,
the curse of the moral law;
and, in their being delivered from
this present evil world,
bondage to Satan,
and dominion of sin;
from the evil of afflictions,
the sting of death,
the victory of the grave,
and everlasting damnation;
as also, in
their free access to God,
and their yielding obedience unto him,
not out of slavish fear,
but a childlike love and willing mind.

All which were common also to believers under the law.

But, under the new testament,

the liberty of Christians is further enlarged,
in their freedom from the yoke of the 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.

20.2

God alone is Lord of the conscience,
and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men,
which are, in anything, contrary to his Word;
or beside it, if matters of faith, or worship.
So that, to believe such doctrines,
or to obey such commands, out of conscience,
is to betray true liberty of conscience:
and the requiring of an implicit faith,
and an absolute and blind obedience,
is to destroy liberty of conscience,
and reason also.