

Week 5 - Law, Liberty, License

Day 29

Read: Romans 13

This chapter sandwiches liberty between law and license. It ends with people who throw off restraint, and makes no excuse for them. It starts by saying nor can we throw off every authority position in our lives.

In this passage from Romans, the foundation is found in chapter 13:8 "Owe nothing to anyone - except your obligation to love one another". Love enables us to fulfil the law without thinking of our moral obligation or our own moral uprightness, and it prevents us from living licentious or even just self-interested lives. Even with law, liberty and license, that foundational command of "Love God with everything, and love your neighbour as yourself" provides the guiding track for everything else to sit where it is supposed to.

Question: Does loving God and loving others provide your framework for what you will and won't allow in your behaviour?

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Prayer: God, I have a long way to go in plumbing the depths of this "loving my neighbour" business. It impacts so much more than I realise. It affects and guides my everyday behaviour. Holy Spirit, please whisper to me, or yell when needed, when I am displaying behaviour that does not reflect this command to love my neighbour as myself. "Love does no wrong to others". I desire to love others and do no harm to them. Please help me to see when I need to change my motive and my behaviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.