

Questions Posed for Study

Question: Why isn't eternal security listed as a Baptist distinctive?

**Distinguishing Baptist Distinctives. – Part II
(Hebrews 13:5b)**

5. "I" – Individual Soul Liberty – We will spend some time on this "distinctive" because it is misconstrued, misapplied and wantonly used to excuse disobedience to God, the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.
 - a. This is another _____ in the side of Roman Catholicism as their religious system was and is designed around the church controlling every aspect of religious belief & practice.
 - b. While this could lead us into some other areas, we will stick to this particular subject at hand.
 1. "Individual Soul liberty" – is a particular Independent _____ distinctive, it is not one that set well with Rome, England, Puritans etc.
 2. Roger Williams who established "Providence" to become known as Rode Island, established that colony on the _____ of "Individual Soul Liberty.
 - (a). Most all other colonies established the _____ that you had to belong to their established religion and believe what they told you to believe.
 - (b). Roger Williams _____ individuals to become part of his Province regardless of their religious affiliation.
 - (c.) His biblical belief was that God gave men a "free-will" to _____ the Word of God or not; the right to be wrong or the right to be right.
 - (d). When we study the Word of God, we find that man doesn't have a right to _____ views & practices as did the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England, and even monarchs who demanded that their subjects believe and embrace the religion of their monarch. The Muslim faith also falls into this group.
 3. What is "Individual Soul Liberty"? Basically, it is that _____ individual be they saved or unsaved, has the 'freedom' to choose how they will exercise their conscience or soul's dictate what is right in the religious realm.

- (a). Here is the rub, “Soul Liberty” _____ everyone with the responsibility for their choices, they have no one to blame if they choose wrongly.
- (b). “Sould Liberty” – I can’t _____ someone, or I don’t have the authority to force someone to believe anything contrary to their own conscience.
- (c.) This ‘liberty’ is not a _____ for disobedience to God as all who come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ must still act according to biblical principles and honor the doctrinal positions of the Bible and Bible-believing Baptist church to which they belong.
- (d). God clearly states that as under shepherds we are _____ to “lord over God’s heritage.” – **I Peter 5:1 – 4.**
 - (1). We are not to follow _____ – **Luke 6:39 & John 8:32.**
 - (2). We should never subscribe to _____ doctrines & truths. **Galatians 1:1-12 & 3:1.**
 - (3). However, each of us should be _____ and ready to learn & be taught – **Acts 8:31 & 17:11; Psalm 1:1 – 6; Hebrews 5:10 – 12.**
 - (4). This also means local churches should not _____ behavior on matters the Bible doesn’t address – **I Corinthians 11:16.**

4. Implications of Soul liberty.

- (a). Believers are _____ to choose their actions and beliefs according to the dictates of their conscience as guided by the Word of God and the Holy spirit of God. **(John 16:7 – 15 & 17:17; Romans 10:14 - 17.)**
- (b). Liberty doesn’t _____ disobedience as one can’t without consequences, disobey the clear teaching of Scripture by appealing to one’s freedom of conscience. Our conscience must _____ to biblical authority. **(I Peter 2:13 – 17; Galatians 5:1 & 13)**
- (c.) Local, not denominational churches, have been raised up to _____ the membership, not by force, by persuasion & example. **(I Corinthians 10:11; I Thessalonians 1:7 & I Peter 5:3)**

5. In a nutshell, Baptist have historically insisted that every individual has the liberty to choose what his or her conscience or soul dictates is right in the religious realm. Soul liberty then asks the Believer to accept _____ for their own actions, their own choices and not force others to do something contrary to their conscience.

6. One of the difficulties of the Christian life is to _____ one’s own personal standards, convictions and doctrinal beliefs with those held by the local church. On the other hand, each individual Believer is responsible for himself to God. **II Corinthians 5:9 – 11.**