

SOME AMERICAN “FREEDOMS” ARE NOT KINGDOM OF HEAVEN “FREEDOMS”

By Marc W. Gibson

Have you considered the truth of the above statement? We enjoy certain freedoms in our country that some assume are also enjoyed in the church. But this is not so. Our country is a representative democracy, while the kingdom of heaven is a monarchy. This makes a big difference. Consider two freedoms we have in this country that we do not have in the church:

1) Freedom of Religion - An American citizen has been granted the freedom to be a part of whatever religion he chooses. In the kingdom of heaven, there is only one acceptable way - that of Christ and His authority. In this country, we have the freedom to choose the church of our choice, but in the kingdom of heaven we must be a part of the one church that Jesus built (*Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:4*). In God's kingdom, we are not free to worship however we want - we must worship God in spirit and truth, that is, according to His will (*John 4:24*). God will judge us by His word in the final judgment, not by the American Bill of Rights!

2) Freedom of Speech - As citizens of this country, we enjoy the freedom to openly express whatever we may believe to be the truth. In the kingdom of heaven, though, we must teach only what has been revealed by God in the Bible (*1 Peter 4:11; Mark 16:15*). Those who do not teach God's truth are to be rebuked as false teachers (*2 John 9-11; Titus 1:10-11*).

The Constitution may grant certain freedoms in the United States of America, but the church follows the new covenant of Christ. We submit to God and His will and no other. Yes, freedom is a wonderful thing. Yet, as Christians let us be careful that we do not confuse these two different types of freedoms understanding this vital point – His are more important! ***