

**BAHRAIN REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**CCCG 10: Leisure**

**May 10, 2024**

**Definition**

Leisure: Free time in which we are at liberty to choose our activity... the time available for other things after our daily work.

Essential principle behind leisure: After God creative activity, He rested on the seventh day... Gen 2:2

Note: On the pattern and basis of God's rest, it is God's purpose for men and women from the beginning to have one day rest and recreation (Sabbath rest)... Gen 2:2, 3

➤ Believers rest with God's Word and they use their leisure in enjoying the fellowship with the brethren... Ps 16:3; 1:2; 111:2

Point: The 4th commandment safeguards the principle that human life is not to be all work – God is very serious about rest!

➤ Land and animals need rest, especially human who are highly created than it – we need recreations and refreshments... Ex. 20:8-11; Lev 25:4; Ex. 23:12;

Mark 6:31 = *Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.* "For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat."

**1. The Holy Use of Leisure**

Note: Though Sabbath rest is essential, rest and leisure can be obtained daily every after our daily works.

Reminder: Having a good time is not a sin, but we should pay attention to the principles God has laid out for godly living when we do engage in leisure activities... Col 3:17

Basis: Everything God made is good... 1 Tim 4:4; cf. Gen 1:31

Example: Food, drinks, entertainment, vacations, sports, hobbies, music, gardening, studying, marrying, etc.

➤ Acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from God... Jas 1:17

➤ The good things of God's creation are intended by Him to be thankfully enjoyed by everyone and especially to the believers... 1 Tim 4:3-5

Point: All our leisure must be pleasing to God ... 1 Cor 10:31

➤ To enjoy leisure, we need to understand God's reign over leisure and His purposes for it – to enjoy and glorify Him forever!

Challenge: We must recognize that all of our time comes under the Lordship of Christ

➤ God watches all of us constantly – we cannot hide from Him or keep any secret from Him. He even reads our minds

Proverbs 15:3 = *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.*

**2. The Christian Liberty**

Issue: The fall of mankind makes these gifts abused and misinterpreted... 1 Tim 4:1-5

Note: Some people worship their work, while others worship and serve their leisure activities that causes sin to oneself and stumbling block to others... Rom 1:25

Point: Christian liberty is a free will of obedience to God... Gal 5:1, 13

General Principle: [1689 BCF XXI, 2] – "God alone is Lord of the conscience"

Wrong implications: Restriction in the use of things indifferent... cf. fundamentalist abstinence

Q1: What is sin? It is essentially spiritual, not material... Rom 14:14; 1 Tim 4:4

Q2: What is self-control? It is moderation, not absolute abstinence...

➤ Christian liberty is restraining indulgence in consideration of higher ends

• No stumbling block on the weak conscience / brother... 1 Cor 8:10-13

• No offence on unbelievers that hinder the gospel... 1 Cor 9:19-23; 10:31-33

Implication

(a) We must always remind ourselves that not every offer of pleasure in our free time is to be pursued... Heb 11:25

(b) Our approach to leisure must have self controlled – we must know what we are doing and why... 1 Pt 1:13

(c) We must to have a discipline to see things if it is right or wrong

(d) We have to enjoy our Christian liberty, but we need to understand that not everything is helpful to you and to others.

(e) When our leisure time and hobbies replace the worship of our Savior, they have become functional idols.

(f) We must not allow our leisure to make us its slave... 1 Cor 6:12

[Thomas Watson] – "What fools are they who, for a drop of pleasure, drink a sea of wrath"

Philippinas 4:8 = *Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things*

Challenge: God doesn't care just about work; he cares about our free time. But even in our free time, we're responsible to God for our use of it... We don't have a liberty to do selfish things.

➤ Genuine Christian liberty does not insist on doing what one is free to do; but it is freedom to deny oneself of right liberty for the sake of the cause of Christ and the Gospel...

***All free time is free, but not all is free***