

# **FREEDOM AND BEING BAPTIST**

## **John 8:36**

**Being freed by Christ, Baptists believe all Christians have the privilege of priesthood and the opportunity of individualism.**

*Tonight we'll explore what this involves ....*

### **I. WE ARE PRIESTS**

#### **- The privilege of freedom**

A. PROCLAIMING OUR TRANSFORMATION - I Peter 2:9

B. ENJOYING ACCESS TO GOD

1. No barriers - Matt. 27:51
2. No reluctance - Heb. 10:19-22

C. INTERCEDING FOR OTHERS

1. Encouraging others in their walk with God - Heb. 10:24-25
2. Prayerfully representing others before God's throne - I Tim. 2:1-2

D. PROVIDING SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

1. To God
  - a. Presenting our bodies to Him - Rom. 12:1-2
  - b. Offering acceptable spiritual sacrifices - I Peter 2:5
  - c. Offering the sacrifice of praise - Heb. 13:15
2. To Others
  - a. Sacrificial duty for the sake others - Phil. 2:17
  - b. Sacrificial giving for the sake of missions - Phil. 4:15-19

E. AVOIDING HUMAN HIERARCHY - I Tim. 2:5

1. Because we are priests we need no other human to stand between us and God
2. Baptists reject the need for human intermediaries between Christians and God

## II. WE ARE INDIVIDUALS

### - The opportunities of freedom

#### A. PERSONALLY ADDRESSED

1. Understanding the need for individual repentance - Luke 3:7-14
2. Understanding the reality of individual choice - John 3:36

#### B. EQUIPPED TO LEARN

1. We can read and understand the Bible for ourselves
2. All Christians are spiritually equipped to know spiritual things  
- See I Cor. 2:11-16 and I John 2:20

#### C. EXPECTED TO DO GOOD

1. Using every opportunity to do good - Gal. 6:10
2. Created in Christ Jesus to do good works - Eph. 2:10
3. Saved so that we might be zealous of good works - Titus 2:14 and see 3:1, 8 & 14
4. Pleasing God by doing good - Heb. 13:16

#### D. FREE FROM COERCION

1. Baptists believe we should not be subjected to legalistic regulation.
2. Some seek to shut up God's kingdom. - Matt. 13:13-15
3. Some focus on trivialities and ignore the important things. - Matt. 23:23
4. Some seek to neglect God's commands in order to enforce the traditions of men.  
- See Mark 7:6-13

#### E. ANSWERABLE TO GOD

1. Baptists believe that every believer is personally accountable to God for their duties and decisions. - See Romans 14:5
2. We should not judge each other for each will give an account to God for himself.  
- See Rom. 14:10-12
3. The Lord will bring to light things we cannot know or see. - I Cor. 4:5
4. Each believe will personally appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. - II Cor. 5:9-10

## CONCLUSION:

None of us are willing to give up our American freedoms.  
- *Nor should we be willing to give up our freedom in Christ.*

**Baptists believe their freedoms as priests and individuals are important and should not be surrendered to any church or denominational authority.**