

“Are we really looking for a pattern? We have taken Acts and tried to make it a prison. Acts was not meant to be a pattern. I reject pattern theology. The Scripture is not a book of case law to be cited like a bunch of proof texts. The way to teach people about the Bible is not to quote a series of steps to salvation. I am not looking for a pattern. I am looking for a Person.”

— a former preacher

**Is this
really
true?**

Do we have to choose between following the pattern and having a Christ-like heart?

Is the idea of using the pattern keeping us away from the Person of Christ?

Is the pattern really just a prison?

The **PATTERN** of **FREEDOM**



Jesus therefore said to those Jews that had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (Jhn. 8:31-32)

Gal. 5:1 For freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage.

Heb. 13:5 Be free from the love of money; content with such things as you have.

Rom. 6:22 But now being made free from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

2 Pet. 2:18-19 For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

Ps. 119:45 And I shall walk at liberty; for I have sought Your precepts.

A PATTERN for the HEART

Rom. 6:17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching** to which you were committed.

Heb. 8:10-11 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days", says the Lord; "I will put My laws into their mind, **and on their heart also will I write them**: And I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people: And they shall not teach every man his fellow-citizen, And every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord': **For all shall know Me**, From the least to the greatest of them.

Pr. 7:1-3 My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye; bind them on your fingers; **write them on the tablet of your heart**.

Ps. 19:8 The precepts of Jehovah are right, **rejoicing the heart**: The commandment of Jehovah is pure, enlightening the eyes.

A PATTERN for a FAMILY

Matt. 12:46-50 While He was still speaking to the people, behold, His mother and His brothers stood outside, asking to speak to Him. And one said unto Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brethren stand without, seeking to speak to You." But He replied to the man who told Him, "Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?" And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! **For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.** "

Our Family Is Built Around A Loving Father – Heb. 12:7-11

Jhn. 14:15 If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

Jhn. 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, "If a man love Me, he will keep My word: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, **and make Our abode with him.**"

Jhn. 15:10-11 If you keep My commandments, you shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love. These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.