



"And now I am no more in the world,  
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance  
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

### **SEEKING FREEDOM ON EARTH**

Between October 2013 and September 2014, some 90,000 unaccompanied minors, mainly from Central America, are expected to be detained for entering the U.S. illegally. Protests about this erupted over the Independence Day weekend just past, when freedom was the focus of American attention. Some protesters were opposed to allowing more immigration, but many were simply angry at politicians for failing to deal effectively with the immigration issue. The primary reason for the flood of child-immigrants seems to be the desire of their parents to free them from poverty and crime. The freedom that gangs and drug cartels strive to attain for their criminal operations comes at a cost of "freedom from fear" that those parents desire for their children.

### **EXERCISING FREEDOM IN CHRIST**

Paul's discussion of Christian freedoms in this week's lesson includes cautions regarding the consequences of exercising them: thoughtless exercise of the freedoms we have in Christ may cause problems for others. Sometimes it is best to limit voluntarily the exercise of our Christian freedoms lest the consciences of others be enslaved in the process.

1. If you were to write to a member of Congress about the issue of child-immigrants crossing into the country illegally, what would you say from a Christian perspective?
2. What can Christians do outside the political process to address the problem of those who cross borders illegally in search of freedom?
3. What implications for other areas of life do you see in Paul's discussion of dietary freedom?
4. In what ways can the exercise of Christian freedoms become stumbling blocks for others in the twenty-first century?
5. In your experience, how has careless use of the "knowledge" of which Paul speaks caused problems?

—Charles R. Boatman

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