



FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

"Freedom is not tangential to the Baptist identity; it is at the core of what it means to be a Baptist... Baptist freedoms are fragile; they are too readily relinquished from within and too easily pirated from without. Freedom can be abdicated. Freedom can also be stolen. Freedom-lovers have no choice but to be vigilant in the defense of freedom." -- *Walter Shurden*

Every Baptist freedom can be undermined by irresponsibility. No freedom gives one license to act without boundaries. Freedom demands individual and collective responsibility.

"If Baptists experienced a rebirth of commitment to (their liberties), they would not only rediscover their roots and their identity, they would also become prophetically relevant to the world today." -- *Walter Shurden*



Few Baptists have understood the cost of freedom like Jitsuo Morikawa who, as a Japanese American in World War II, was held by the American government in an internment camp in Arizona for no other reason than his race. Jitsuo went on to become a strong national conscience of American Baptists for the cause of justice, evangelism and freedom.

