

# Stephen

Acts 6:8 -15

## **Introduction:**

Stephen: a servant, leader, evangelist, martyr  
but most of all a theologian

He makes explicit implications of the Gospel.

v 8. Power is visited on the next generation

v 9. A Hellenic challenge

v. 10 They lost the debate because of the grace given Stephen.

v.11 And here is what they stumbled over:

“...the implications of grace...”

...freedom in Christ as we are free from the law and temple services.

The response to this truth? “Blasphemy!”

They saw the law as an end and not a means and

false witnesses misrepresented them as anti-Judaism.

vv. 12- 14 Here is their representation:

So what does “freedom from law” mean?

The law has four parts: ceremonial  
hygienic or ‘cleanliness’  
civil  
moral

1. Ceremonial: the temple, sacrifices, priesthood

It was symbolic and repetitive. Shadows of a coming, final sacrifice that would end the shadows.

Stephen understood this.

2. Hygienic: Clean food, clothes, bodies, houses

Also symbols for internal cleanliness

Once the heart is right there is no other need for the symbol.

3. Civil: Israel was a national entity. A political one.

The church is not a political one.

4. Moral: Ours is a higher impetus than external written rules.

It is an inner rebirth. A new covenant.

## **Conclusion:**