

## True Freedom

### **John 8:36 (KJV)**

**36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

There is no such thing as total freedom in any society. Total freedom of the individual is antithetical to society as a whole or even society as a definition. While the individual may enjoy a season of total freedom, such behavior dismantles the transit system to convey freedom to the next generation.

Freedom without law is chaos. Chaos is disorder. Disorder breeds distrust. Distrust creates societal rifts. Societal rifts create tribalism. Tribalism creates prejudice. Prejudice creates animosity and enmity without just cause or reason. This brings segregation and warfare; the unjust punishing of other peoples simply because they are not in the tribe; they are not the right ethnicity, skin color or background.

This is NOT freedom.

Freedom without law is an environment where no person can exercise their freedoms without unpredictable retribution. The limits of personal freedom are not known without good law or law itself, therefore personal freedom invariably treads upon collective freedom. Thus, a person only knows that they have gone too far into another's freedom when revenge falls upon them. This is not a recipe for peace and prosperity; the cycle of perpetual retribution until the initial cause is entirely forgotten. Law is that defining of the limitations that keep all equally limited and equally free. Our Founding Fathers understood and well debated that good law followed natural law and natural law followed God's Law. Good Law = Freedom.

**Romans 13:1-3 (AMP)** Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God [*granted by His permission and sanction*], and those which exist have been put in place by God. [Pro 8:15] **2** Therefore whoever resists [*governmental*] authority resists the ordinance of God. And those who have resisted it will bring judgment (civil penalty) on themselves. **3** For [*civil*] authorities are not a source of fear for [*people of*] good behavior, but for [*those who do*] evil. Do you want to be unafraid of authority? Do what is good and you will receive approval *and* commendation.

Paul wrote this about the Roman government! He was not writing this about a perfect, nor pure form of government. He was not writing this about nobles and politicians that were filled with altruism. He was writing this about the collective government who ruled with an iron fist and took bribes with an open hand.

The lesson is as my pastor has always preached, “Bad government is better than no government.”

Counterintuitive to carnal reasoning or even at times rational thought, is the idea that what constrains my actions is the vehicle of the freedom I seek. In other words, it is law that brings liberty. Without God’s Law - you have no freedom.

Yet, this isn’t how Satan tells the story. The devil told Adam and Eve that Freedom = No Laws. That they were in bondage while under God’s Laws. Thus, he convinced them to separate or remove themselves from under God’s governance. “Be gods *to yourselves!*” Satan hissed. “Decide for *you* what *you* want to do!”

They did and they lost their freedom.

**2 Peter 2:18-19 (KJV)** For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. **19** While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

When your lusts and wantonness are not constrained by God’s Law you come into bondage by them. When you abandon the restrictions and constraints of God, you have servitude to the whims of men and your peace and prosperity ebbs and flows by both their rule and their character. These whims include your own, which bring you into bondage to the sinful nature, unforeseen consequences, and to sin itself.

**Romans 8:2 (KJV)**

**2** For the **law** of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me **free** from the law of sin and death.

Freedom did not come through absence of law, but the supplanting of the law of dictatorial whims of the flesh, with the Law of the Spirit. It was *this* law that made us free - not the law of self-will, but the will of God. Freewill, or freedom, cannot exist *outside* of the will of God. An article written by Yitzchak Reuven of the Temple Institute, from years previous came to mind while writing and we will draw from it here:

From the days of *Adam* man had rebelled against G-d. The builders of the tower of Bavel attempted no less than a *coup* against G-d, plotting to replace G-d's authority with their own. But their very rebellion belied their recognition of G-d. But Pharaoh didn't know [of] G-d, nor did he want to. Being all-powerful Pharaoh, he had no intention of letting G-d into his reality.

It continues:

Pharaoh hardened his heart: that is, he used his G-d given free will to deny G-d's existence. Time after time Pharaoh hardened his heart. He was going head to head with G-d, employing the very gift of free will that G-d gave to man in order to deny that G-d existed! Clearly, the greatest and most devastating of calamities that G-d could bring upon Egypt would not budge Pharaoh from his desperate refusal to deny G-d.

And again,

Truly, G-d has overridden Pharaoh's free will, but it was Pharaoh himself, who willingly divested himself of his free will. Man is created in G-d's image. Every fiber in man's being derives its existence from G-d. Therefore, if a man so adamantly sets himself against his creator and animator, that he severs himself from his G-dly source, then [he] is no longer a man. He is a lifeless automaton, deprived of his innate ability to choose between right and wrong, between good and evil, between doing G-d's will or defying G-d's will. Man *is*, because he recognizes G-d. Deny that recognition, and man no longer is man. This is the real dividing line between liberation and slavery. Straw and bricks and backbreaking labor was Pharaoh's way of enslaving Israel, but his steadfast denial of G-d was his way of enslaving himself and his entire nation.

It concludes:

In today's society technology grants us so much freedom to create our own self imposed bubbles, our own virtual worlds, our own fake realities, that we too risk the slippery slope of the "*I, me, mine*" which befell Pharaoh, of becoming our own gods, denying the true G-d who rules our world. The id, the ego, the I, me, mine, are, indeed the distinguishing attributes of our human existence, but be aware that they all derive from G-d, and, like Pharaoh, we deny this truth at our own peril.

The assessment that ignorant and fallen man uses to measure freedom is how far they can take their self-will to their self-service (or destruction). But only a will that operates inside of the will of God can truly lead to true freedom.

Thus, in *any* society, yeah, not even in the Garden of Eden, is there *total* freedom, meaning freedom from any constraints or any other will imposed upon yourself.

The very nature of society is a contract with other humans upon the agreed rules of mutual conduct. This is governance and it is right. To break free from that is akin to the Fall in the Garden. It is anarchy, and if you look close enough, it is anti-Christ. Christ was the manifestation of the consummate will of God. Any persons that deny God's right to impose His will on Creation and creatures, is anti-christ.

**Hebrews 10:7 (KJV)** Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

We definitely live in the days of 'anti-Christ'!

In these days of trouble, rebellion, anarchy, let us remember:

**2 Corinthians 3:17 (KJV)** Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

To live free is only achieved by living within the will and Laws of the Almighty God, everything else is an illusion and hallucination brought about by the heady drug of iniquity, bitterness and rebellion against God, His constituted authority and His Laws. It is fleeting and it destroys while it intoxicates.

But dwelling in God's Spirit, Laws, and will is TRUE FREEDOM!

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*04/28/2024*