

TRUTH THAT STANDS THE TEST OF TIME

Part 5: Freedom

July 5, 2020

Discussion Question: How do you describe freedom for you and your family? Does that apply to all people at all places anywhere in the world?

Prov 12:19 – 20 *“Truth stands the test of time; lies are soon exposed. 20 Deceit fills hearts that are plotting for evil; joy fills hearts that are planning for good!”* [TLB]

TODAY: Part 5: Freedom

1 Peter 2:16 *“Live as people who are free not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.”* [ESV]

1. Summons to Freedom

Live as people that are free! Act like free people!

I understand this language is a trigger to some people so for those that are *“trigger happy”* let me speak of slavery. The Bible speaks of slavery as

- Enslaved to our own flesh.
- Enslaved to our own way of thinking.
- Enslaved to outside influences
- Enslaved to spiritual wickedness and demonic forces.
- And yes, enslaved by another human.

As Christian, we are not to live in these mindsets. We are to live (struggle, fight for, walk in) the freedom that is granted by our Creator!

Socialist/Communist nations hate Christianity. One of the reasons is that Christianity promotes freedom! They on the other hand immortalized their leaders as gods and say that religion is just a drug for the masses. This Biblical idea of freedom is what drove our founding fathers; drove the destruction of American slavery & Jim Crow and is now today driving the destruction of human trafficking.

MLK’s speech still echoes today: “And I say to you today my friends, let freedom ring. From the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire, let freedom ring. From the mighty mountains of New York, let freedom ring. From the mighty Alleghenies of Pennsylvania! Let freedom ring from the snow capped Rockies of Colorado! Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California! But not only there; let freedom ring from the Stone Mountain of Georgia! Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain in Tennessee! Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill in Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring. And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God almighty, we're free at last!"

FREEDOM is the summons of every human heart! When I use the word summons it probably invokes the idea of appearing in court. By definition it implies a call by an authority to appear, come or do something.

Gal 5:13 *“For you were called to freedom, brothers...”* [ESV]

Ultimately what enslaves is sin:

John 8:34 *“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”* [KJV]

C.S. Lewis wrote: “Mankind is so fallen that no man can be trusted with unchecked power over his fellows. Aristotle said that some people were only fit to be slaves. I do not contradict him. But I reject slavery because I see no men fit to be masters.”

2. Freedom Only in the Son

John 8:31, 32, 36 *“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free....36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”* [KJV]

Jesus came to proclaim Liberty! To set us free!

If you understand that real freedom does not lie in the hands of government then you don't look at them for it. **Why do I say that?** The government must be reminded that humans have been endowed (given the right) by our creator certain unalienable (not capable of being taken away) rights. Anything the government gives you they can take away from you.

Truth that stands the test of time, Freedom comes from Christ!

3. Freedom Serves

“...not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.”

Christ did not liberate us from bondage to bring us into another form of bondage. Too many today just trade one bondage for another. Jesus was called friend of sinners...because HE brought liberty to those that were under bondage.

And so for us....the Truth that will Stand the Test of time is that the greatest will be servant of all. We are called to serve Christ...when we do the Father honors us... and the result is us serving one another!

“Christianity enhanced the notion of political and social accountability by providing a new model: that of servant leadership. In ancient Greece and Rome no one would have dreamed of considering political leaders anyone's servants. The job of the leader was to lead. But Christ invented the notion that the way to lead is by serving the needs of others, especially those who are the most needy.”

— **Dinesh D'Souza, What's So Great About Christianity**

“It is not the style of clothes one wears, neither the kind of automobile one drives, nor the amount of money one has in the bank, that counts. These mean nothing. It is simply service that measures success.” (George Washington Carver)