

UNDERSTANDING FREEDOM

JULY 4, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

What do you think of when you hear the word freedom? National freedom, political freedom, religious freedom or freedom of speech or even freedom from religion? Freedom to pursue our aspirations and dreams? Freedom to govern self, which is anarchy? Jesus spoke of true freedom that only comes from knowing the truth. **JOHN 8:31-32** The truth is, Jesus set us free not to serve self, sin or Satan, He set us free to serve Him and others. **GALATIANS 5:13-18 (MSG)**

FREEDOM'S PERSPECTIVES

1. Controlled freedom. **1 PETER 2:16 (NLT)**

- A. We live in a culture that demands total freedom. They want what they want, and they want what they want to be tolerated and celebrated. **JUDGES 21:25** This is uncontrolled freedom, or anarchy. **2 PETER 2:17-21 (NLT), ROMANS 6:17-19 (NLT)**
- B. Controlled freedom declares: I can drive, but not on the wrong side of the street; I can speak, but not shout fire in a crowded theater when there isn't one; I can assemble, but not to destroy the property of others.
- C. Jesus didn't set us free to be a law to ourselves, He set us free to serve Him out of love and devotion.

2. Conditional Freedom. **GALATIANS 5:1-5 (NLT)**

- A. Conditioned upon the work of Christ, not our efforts.
- B. Conditioned upon our staying free from legalism.
- C. Conditioned upon our staying in faith.
 - To be free, become His servant; to stay free, stand firm in the faith.

3. Constructive freedom. **2 CORINTHIANS 3:17-18 (NLT)**

- A. Anarchy, or uncontrolled freedom, is destructive and leads to slavery. True, or controlled freedom is constructive and leads to obedience and life transformation.
 - Freedom from perversion that results in purity.
 - Freedom from wicked living that results in wise living.
 - Freedom from works that results in faith.
 - Freedom from sin's dominion that results in holiness.
 - Freedom from self wants to do what God wants.
 - Freedom from evil habits that results in godliness.
 - Freedom from fear that results in peace: **2 TIMOTHY 1:7, ISAIAH 41:10, ISAIAH 43:1-3a**
- B. Knowing the truth is constructive:
 - About salvation. Now are we God's sons.
 - About our position. We are heirs of God.
 - About our possessions. We have all things.

CONCLUSION:

True freedom is found in Christ. In Him, we are free from spiritual, emotional and physical bondages. It's our responsibility to discover these truths and allow them to transform our lives into the image of Christ.