



## *Live Free—July 4th*

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- Americans celebrate political freedom but it is only one piece of the pie. The other pieces consist of economic, religious, press, social, mental, physical & spiritual.
- How free are you?
- ❖ ***GOD IS FREE (Gen 1:1, 3)***
  - God is free and unrestricted to location (omnipresent), to thought (omniscient), and to power & ability (omnipotent).
  - He is free to imagine & create, feel and love and to be good and just.
  - He is not free to not be God. He is restricted to being God.
  - Everyone wants to protect their freewill, but few are concerned about God's.
  - God's freewill (His kingdom) is what He actively wants—it is best for us.
- ❖ ***WE WERE CREATED FREE (Gen 1:27; 2:16)***
  - Made in his image we need God's face to find our good freewill and we represent God's will to the rest of creation—a sublime privilege and responsibility.
  - We are created to be like God: creative, to feel, love, be good, and just.
  - Freedom does not mean “no limitations.” It means no coercion to our will.
  - We are not free to not be human. We are not birds, fish, angels or God.
- ❖ ***WE LOST OUR FREEDOM (Gen 3:1, 4-5)***
  - Our ancestors made a free, fateful decision (choice, will) to doubt God's love and goodness and believe a lying, stranger (snake) instead.
  - We can't be too upset with them (as if we are victims) because we do the same (freely make decisions, against God and others and thus lose our freedom).
  - We are constantly defying our human limitations & suffering the consequences.
- ❖ ***THE ISRAELITES WERE ENSLAVED (Exo 1:11-14)***
  - Israel became the poster child for spiritual and social bondage.
  - God weighs in: he hates slavery and bondage. He hates what it does to the Image.
  - We do it to ourselves and we do it to others. We are the bullies (oppressors) of the world.
- ❖ ***GOD IS AGAINST OPPRESSION AND WILL DELIVER US (Exo 22:21; Psa 72:4; Isa 58:6)***
  - Over 61x God speaks against social oppression.
  - But it is the symptom of a deeper oppression (spiritual).
- ❖ ***JESUS CAME TO SET US FREE (Isa 42:7; Heb 9:15)***

- He is the Savior (Deliverer; Conqueror, Messiah).
- He struck at the core issue (sin, separation from God) rather than the symptoms.
- All other types of freedom are connected to this core freedom.
- Israel only wanted freedom from Rome. The leaders rejected Jesus because he brought spiritual freedom first and to all people.

❖ ***WE ARE SET FREE (John 8:26; Rom 6:18; 8:2)***

- The spiritual freedom of a believer allows us to be thoroughly free at the core while waiting for the other freedoms to catch up.

❖ ***WHAT WILL WE DO WITH OUR FREEDOM? (Gal 5:1, 13; 1 Pet 2:16)***

- Two entities try to take away our spiritual freedom (sin and religious legalism).
- Live as free men! Truly live!

❖ ***THINKING IT THROUGH***

- How free is God? Think it through. What are His restrictions?
- How free are you? Think it through. What are your limitations?
- What (who) takes your freedom away? How precious is it to you?
- What are you in bondage to? What limits your freedom?
- How deeply has Christ set you free? In what areas has your chains fallen off?
- How does sin and legalistic religion try to creep back and take away your freedom?
- Do some soul searching, pray and make some new decisions to live free.