



Live Free—July 4th

- 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.
 - Political freedom
 - Economic freedom
 - Religious freedom
 - Press freedom
 - Social freedom
 - Mental freedom
 - Physical freedom
 - Spiritual freedom
- 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.
 - He can't be creation. Even in the incarnation He continued to be God.
 - He will never be unloving or evil. He will always love you.
 - He will always be passionate about justice and judge oppression.
 - But there are some temporary aspects to his will that temporarily restrict his will from ultimate fulfillment.
 - He created us free-to authentically choose and we chose sin.
 - Now that freedom that God chose to give us is playing out it's course with the understanding that that God's good will, will win in the end.
 - Meantime pain, suffering, death are a part of our world by our choice.
- 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.
 - It could have been anything, but the one restriction represented limitation. You can't be God.
- 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.
 - Choices of spending, unfaithfulness as spouse or parent, unfaithfulness to driving behavior, unfaithfulness to our bodies, unfaithfulness to the planet.
 - How free are we?

❖ ***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.
 - Many in America live in deep bondage while celebrating with fireworks.

❖ ***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.