

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

1 Peter 2:11-16

Introduction: Nobody wants to be a slave or confined to some place with somebody ordering them around all the time. Our own country has been called "the land of the free" and people for years have been coming here from all over the world to "be free" and start a new life. Is anybody actually totally, completely "free" to do whatever he/she wants?

I. FREEDOM IS A PRIVILEGE

1. Freedom is not automatic and the saying "all men are born free" is not exactly accurate.
 - What about children, aren't there family rules, laws that safeguard them and train them with no place for their agreeing or disagreeing?
 - Aren't routines established early in one's life which are followed without question?
 - Everyone is born under authority and to obtain freedom is a privilege.
2. The immature are disciplined because they do not understand their own environment/situation.
 - As they learn, they begin to become "free."
 - Understanding creates the opportunity to choose, thus freedom.
3. Peter points out that the spiritually mature manage to live well without the Law to force them.
 - Subject to legal institutions, yes, but the spiritually mature do right and have right conduct because they see it as right and do so not from being compelled through some fear, but willingly as spiritually free people.
4. Paul points out that the spiritually mature live well, high above the law, bringing forth fruits of the Spirit in the area of virtue where commandments and obligations are not the main motive.
(*"...above such there is no law..."*)

II. FREEDOM HAS PERILS

1. Physically, psychologically and morally all of us are people of habit, chaining our own selves to certain things, people, habits, etc., even though we say we are free.
2. Rebellions start under the guise of "freedom." Remember some of those in our country's past?
3. For the Christian, spiritual freedom is not freedom to be free from everything, such as taxes and common laws. (*Matthew 17:24; 5:19; Romans 6:1*)
 - "Man-made" laws can be by passed say some.
 - The Christian, however, is bound to the obedience of faith.
 - No person is ever above the temptation to do what he/she likes and then call it spiritual freedom.

III. PERFECT FREEDOM IS BEING TIED TO GOD

1. Christians are servants of God living as free people. Some have even called themselves "slaves."
 - Peter reminds that above the pressures of everyday living and the natural tendency to want to "run things" one is actually subject to the will of God because the life of the Christian is rooted in God's will.

2. Peter has much to say about one's life being rooted in God's will:
 - "Christians live no longer by human passions but by the will of God." (*1 Peter 4:2*)
 - "It is God's will that by right-doing we put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."
(*1 Peter 2:15*)
 - "It is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong, if such be God's will."
(*1 Peter 3:17*)
 - Let those who suffer according to God's will commit the keeping of their souls to Him."
(*1 Peter 4:19*)
 - Life rooted in God's will is not easy, but it is strong and safe.

3. Peter's summation about Christians is: "*...elect unto obedience...*" "*...children of obedience...*" "*...purified in obedience...*" "*...sanctified Christ in their hearts as Lord...*"

CONCLUSION:

1. Nobody is "born" free into this world, any freedom comes later on in life.
2. Nobody is completely free of any and all restraint.
3. To be spiritually free, one must deliberately place his/her trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and in doing so is "born again," this time into the family of God where one is "free" from the penalty of sin and from an eternity in hell.
 - Spiritually free but committed totally to God's will.
4. The Christian is free from the bondage of society, sin, self but is in bondage to the compulsion of the most high almighty God.