

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FREE? (What "freedom" is the Bible focused on in these types of passages?)

Is 61:1-4

2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
Gal 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. NASU

WHAT THIS FREEDOM IS NOT:

- **It's not a political structure ...** You're not free because you're an American or Enslaved because you're Cuban
- **It's not freedom from experiencing life in a fallen world (w/ it's mistreatment, ill health, oppressive regimes, indwelling sin, our own weaknesses, etc.)**

Matt 10:21-23 Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, 22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. 23 When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

1 Peter 1:6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials

- **It's not freedom from temptation to sin or from the mortal combat of mortifying sin (1Cor 10:13; Rom 8:13; 1Cor 9:27)**
- **It's not freedom from wrestling with opposition (Eph 6)**
- **It's not freedom from difficulty and struggle and disappointment**

Heb 12:11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

1 Peter 4:12-14 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

- **It's not freedom from experiencing consequences of sinful choices** (2Tim 4:10)
1 Tim 6:9 "But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction

It's not a Disney Vacation

The Confusing Conflict of DATA: American Culture Labels Certain Things GOOD
.... God is GOOD God Should Give us the American Dream

WHAT IS THIS FREEDOM:

1. **Freedom from the Power & Dominion of Sin** (From It's Right to Enslave; from it's Ownership)
Rom 6:14ff
2. **Freedom from the Condemnation of the Law** (That sense that We're Wrong and we need to Perform More/Better to be Accepted)
Rom 8:1

“Wherein does the liberty of true Christians consist? Of what is their freedom made up? — They are freed from the guilt and consequences of sin by the blood of Christ. Justified, pardoned, forgiven, they can look forward boldly to the day of judgement, and cry, “Who shall lay anything to our charge? Who is he that condemneth?” — They are freed from the power of sin by the grace of Christ’s Spirit. Sin has no longer dominion over them. Renewed, converted, sanctified, they mortify and tread down sin, and are no longer led captive by it.” **J.C. Ryle**, “Expository Thoughts on John” vol 2, p. 116

It is freedom in the most important categories of our lives!— even though we may be more aggressively pursuing freedom elsewhere!

— We've bought the idea that the Pleasures of Money & Lifestyle are worth more than Freedom from the Power of Sin made known to us in Christ

.... We're convinced that Experiencing the Love and Acceptance of People is worth more than the Freedom from Condemnation that makes us Loved & Accepted by God

Eph 2:11-19

Rom 15:7-8 Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

Luke 15:2-7

Isa 62:3-5 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. 4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. 5 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

This is a "FREEDOM THROUGH DISCOVERY".... Freedom Through Discovering the Gospel

v. 32 "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free"

Freedom comes as a by-product of Knowing, Understanding, & Embracing the Truth

—> Knowing, Understanding & Embracing come by the Holy Spirit as we ABIDE in the Truth