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## Issue 41

### FREEDOM

We say we are in a free country, but are we free?

Every general increase of freedom is accompanied by some degeneracy, attributable to the same causes as the freedom.

Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged. Ronald Reagan [\[1\]](#)

Freedom comes at a price; tragically its expense is often war.

Joh 8:31 Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure.

Joh 8:32 Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you."

Joh 8:33 Surprised, they said, "But we're descendants of Abraham. We've never been slaves to anyone. How can you say, 'The truth will free you'?"

Joh 8:34 Jesus said, "I tell you most solemnly that anyone who chooses a life of sin is trapped in a dead-end life and is, in fact, a slave.

Joh 8:35 A slave is a transient, who can't come and go at will. The Son, though, has an established position, the run of the house.

Joh 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you are free through and through.

Irresponsibility leads to lack of liberty.

Freedom is not the ability to run from our responsibilities, but the courage to soar toward our possibilities.

Rom 6:14 Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.

Rom 6:15 So, since we're out from under the old tyranny, does that mean we can live any old way we want? Since we're free in the freedom of God, can we do anything that comes to mind?

Rom 6:16 Hardly. You know well enough from your own experience that there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom. Offer yourselves to sin, for instance, and it's your last free act. But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits. All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do.

Rom 6:17 But thank God you've started listening to a new master,

Rom 6:18 one whose commands set you free to live openly in his freedom!

Rom 6:19 I'm using this freedom language because it's easy to picture. You can readily recall, can't you, how at one time the more you did just what you felt like doing--not caring about others, not caring about God--the worse your life became and the less freedom you had? And how much different is it now as you live in God's freedom, your lives healed and expansive in holiness?

Rom 6:20 As long as you did what you felt like doing, ignoring God, you didn't have to bother with right thinking or right living, or right anything for that matter.

Rom 6:21 But do you call that a free life? What did you get out of it? Nothing you're proud of now. Where did it get you? - to a dead end.

Rom 6:22 But now that you've found you don't have to listen to sin tell you what to do, and have discovered the delight of listening to God telling you, what a surprise! A whole, healed, put-together life right now, with more and more of life on the way!

The basic test of freedom is perhaps less in what we are free to do than in what we are free not to do. It is the freedom to refrain, withdraw and abstain

Man in general, if reduced to himself, is too wicked to be free.

Freedom number 1 yes, but freedom is not the only desire God has for humankind.

Responsibility is pillar number 2. Freedom requires obligation and obligation requires commitment.

Freedom requires covenant. Israel was freed from the slavery of Egypt, but they didn't know how to handle freedom, they moaned, grizzled and rebelled.

Freedom requires giving up freedom for the greater good of the whole (community or society).

In the founding of America the liberation of the revolution was followed by the constriction of the Constitution.

The famous "Liberty Bell" rings from the tower of Independence. Written on it are the words, "Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." A quote from Leviticus 25: 10 it speaks about the year of Jubilee. BUT, ironically, it became cracked! It had to be melted and recast!

Freedom from domination of law or man's control:

Gal 4:17 Those heretical teachers go to great lengths to flatter you, but their motives are rotten. They want to shut you out of the free world of God's grace so that you will always depend on them for approval and direction, making them feel important.

To question and evaluate things is important, for knowledge is power and ignorance is enslavement. When we accept without questioning, we forfeit the power to control our own lives.

Rom 7:1 You shouldn't have any trouble understanding this, friends, for you know all the ins and outs of the law--how it works and how its power touches only the living.

Rom 7:2 For instance, a wife is legally tied to her husband while he lives, but if he dies, she's free.

Rom 7:3 If she lives with another man while her husband is living, she's obviously an

adulteress. But if he dies, she is quite free to marry another man in good conscience, with no one's disapproval.

Rom 7:4 So, my friends, this is something like what has taken place with you. When Christ died he took that entire rule-dominated way of life down with him and left it in the tomb, leaving you free to "marry" a resurrection life and bear "offspring" of faith for God.

Rom 7:5 For as long as we lived that old way of life, doing whatever we felt we could get away with, sin was calling most of the shots as the old law code hemmed us in. And this made us all the more rebellious. In the end, all we had to show for it was miscarriages and stillbirths.

Rom 7:6 But now that we're no longer shackled to that domineering mate of sin, and out from under all those oppressive regulations and fine print, we're free to live a new life in the freedom of God.

Re: a wife joined to an unbeliever: (read the previous verses to get the context)

1Co 7:19 Being Jewish isn't the point. The really important thing is obeying God's call, following his commands.

1Co 7:20 Stay where you were when God called your name.

1Co 7:21 Were you a slave? Slavery is no roadblock to obeying and believing. I don't mean you're stuck and can't leave. If you have a chance at freedom, go ahead and take it.

1Co 7:22 I'm simply trying to point out that under your new Master you're going to experience a marvelous freedom you would never have dreamed of. On the other hand, if you were free when Christ called you, you'll experience a delightful "enslavement to God" you would never have dreamed of.

1Co 7:23 All of you, slave and free both, were once held hostage in a sinful society. Then a huge sum was paid out for your ransom. So please don't, out of old habit, slip back into being or doing what everyone else tells you.

1Co 7:24 Friends, stay where you were called to be. God is there. Hold the high ground with him at your side.

Galations --- Set free from the law to be free:

Gal 4:21 Tell me now, you who have become so enamored with the law: Have you paid close attention to that law?

Gal 4:22 Abraham, remember, had two sons: one by the slave woman and one by the free woman.

Gal 4:23 The son of the slave woman was born by human connivance; the son of the free woman was born by God's promise.

Gal 4:24 This illustrates the very thing we are dealing with now. The two births represent two ways of being in relationship with God. One is from Mount Sinai in Arabia.

Gal 4:25 It corresponds with what is now going on in Jerusalem--a slave life, producing slaves as offspring. This is the way of Hagar.

Gal 4:26 In contrast to that, there is an invisible Jerusalem, a free Jerusalem, and she is our mother--this is the way of Sarah.

Gal 4:27 Remember what Isaiah wrote: Rejoice, barren woman who bears no children, shout and cry out, woman who has no birth pangs, Because the children of the barren woman now surpass the children of the chosen woman.

Gal 4:28 Isn't it clear, friends, that you, like Isaac, are children of promise?

Gal 4:29 In the days of Hagar and Sarah, the child who came from faithless connivance (Ishmael) harassed the child who came--empowered by the Spirit--from the faithful promise (Isaac). Isn't it clear that the harassment you are now experiencing from the Jerusalem heretics follows that old pattern?

Gal 4:30 There is a Scripture that tells us what to do: "Expel the slave mother with her son, for the slave son will not inherit with the free son."

Gal 4:31 Isn't that conclusive? We are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

Peter says: 1Pe 2:16 Exercise your freedom by serving God, not by breaking the rules.

E.G. A man decides to exercise his freedom by jumping off a high building. Half way down he realizes that he's traveling too fast and there is a sudden bottom. Can he reverse the falling process? Can he stop the fall? Of course not. In the final ten stories his tragic character will examine his definition of freedom and realise too late that it was wrong.

Freedom of speech!? Psa 12: 4 "Our lips are our own; who will lord over us." This is attitude of the Western world, proud of our independence.

Dependence and independence are assign of immaturity, interdependence is maturity. Freedom means we are independently-dependant.

Other enslavements are: Words of the past that labeled us --- complexes --- fears ---- inferiority ---- shyness ---- habits -- ego that blinds.

You can be in jail and yet free, you can be in a palace yet a prisoner; you can have all liberty in the world, but be in bondage.

Finally I repeat what I wrote earlier:

Freedom gives the courage to soar toward our possibilities.

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