

Live As People Who Are Free

July 4, 2021

Why Freedom Of Choice Is So Important

Galatians 1:10 ESV

10 For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

- *When people are manipulated, coerced or oppressed to think, speak, act or live a certain way, they are robbed of the most important choice they will ever make, to serve God with a willing mind and their whole heart.*
- *As Christians, we are respectful and kind to all, and submissive to God-ordained authority; but the more our motives or affections are to appease a man or authority more than, or instead of, pleasing God, then we are severed from a living, growing, healthy relationship with God.*

Hebrews 8:10-11 ESV

10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

11 And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Hebrews 5:14 ESV

14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

- *The more a person is controlled by another, the less opportunity and freedom they have to discover and choose what they believe and how they will live their lives. For example, a child whose growth into maturity is retarded by an overbearing and controlling parent.*

"Freedom is the oxygen of the soul."

—Moshe Dayan, 1915-1981, Israeli Soldier

Jesus and the U.S. Constitution

Luke 22:24-26 ESV

24 A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.

25 And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors.

26 But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.

The Declaration of Independence, In Congress, July 4, 1776

"The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another...a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government...

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations...evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. --Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States."

The Fight for Freedom

- *Because of the evil in man's heart to dominate and lord over others, freedom is never free, but must be fought for and defended.*

Galatians 2:4-5 ESV

4 Yet because of false brothers secretly brought in--who slipped in to spy out our freedom that we have in Christ Jesus, so that they might bring us into slavery--

5 to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

Galatians 2:11-12 ESV

11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

12 For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."

—Ronald Reagan, 40th U.S. President

"'Emergencies' have always been the pretext on which the safeguards of individual liberty have been eroded."

—Friedrich August von Hayek, Austrian Economist, 1899-1992

"If we wish to preserve a free society, it is essential that we recognize that the desirability of a particular object is not sufficient justification for the use of coercion."

—Friedrich August von Hayek, Austrian Economist, 1899-1992

The Danger in Freedom

- *Evil in a free society will only replicate and multiply, until it inevitably destroys the society from within.*

1 Peter 2:16-17 ESV

16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

17 Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

"May we think of freedom, not as the right to do as we please, but as the opportunity to do what is right."

—Peter Marshall, Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, In a prayer delivered on March 19, 1947.

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

—John Adams, 2nd U.S. President

"Human passions unbridled by morality and religion . . . would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net."

—John Adams, 2nd U.S. President

"On September 17, 1787, delegates left the Constitutional Convention in Independence Hall in Philadelphia. As they exited, Benjamin Franklin was asked what kind of government do we have? 'A Republic,' he replied, 'if you can keep it.'"

The Corruption of Power

Matthew 23:1-7 ESV

1 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,

2 The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat,

3 so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice.

4 They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger.

5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long,

6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues

7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.

"Because power corrupts, society's demands for moral authority and character increase as the importance of the position increases." —John Adams, 2nd U.S. President

"I fear that in every elected office, members will obtain an influence by noise, not sense. By meanness, not greatness. By ignorance, not learning. By contracted hearts, not large souls . . . There must be decency and respect." —John Adams, 2nd U.S. President

The United States is being destroyed by evil multiplying in the environment of freedom and by corrupt leadership.

Just as in the Garden of Eden, what was so good, is being destroyed by man's sinfulness.

Before the Antichrist can come to power through a one world government, not only does the Church have to be removed, but any democratic republic must be destroyed.

The Church must be the living example of how freedom is to be used and not abused.