

“Our Independence”
Sunday, July 4, 2021

- Independence – freedom from the control of another
- You and I were created to be FREE! Any bondage that you and I experience in life, personally, politically, or relationally is contrary to God’s design! He wants us free!

I. All freedom is governed by CHOICE!
(Genesis 2:15-17, Deuteronomy 30:15,19)
Genesis 2:15-17

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 "but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Deuteronomy 30:15,19

15 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil,

19 "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

A. All of the choices of life is what governs our freedom...inside and outside!

1. One of our Founding Fathers once said, “The freedom of democracy only works when men govern themselves.”
2. The freedom I have in life is truly based on my proper choices!

B. The godly choices I make governs my personal freedom I experience!

(Romans 6:16-18)

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

1. II Corinthians 6:12 says that what we give ourselves to determines our freedom!
12 You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted by your own affections.
 2. The "context" of this scripture further explains this...verse 14-18
II Corinthians 6:14-18
14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people." 17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you." 18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."
 3. The choice to be "yoked" hinders my freedom.
 4. It was/is a choice!
- C. In Romans 6, the word "servant" or "slave" is the Greek word that means: One who is swallowed up by the will

of another!

Romans 6:16-18

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

1. Remember that before the serpent came in the Garden, there was only one "will"...the will of God.
2. This even goes back to Isaiah 14:12-14.
12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!
13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

Before Lucifer's rebellion, there was only one will of God!

II. True life is only found in freedom! (Romans 6:22)

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

A. Freedom brings the greatest of responsibility! (Galatians 5:13)

13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

J.B Phillips translation: Be careful that freedom does not become mere opportunity for your lower nature.

1. I'm not free to do what I want, I'm free to do the right thing!
2. We are saved for good works, not by good works we are saved! Ephesians 2:10
10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

B. Choice is the first step of empowerment of freedom!
Romans 6:17-22

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

19 I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. 20 For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.