

Freedom

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Script - Jn. 8:31-32

A. Freedom - What does it mean? (definition).

1. the state of being free or at liberty rather than in confinement or under physical restraint.

2. exemption from external control, interference, regulation, etc.

3. the power to determine action without restraint.

4. political or national independence.

5. personal liberty, as opposed to bondage or slavery: a slave who bought his freedom.

6. exemption from the presence of anything specified (usually followed by from): freedom from fear.

B. What freedom does not mean.

1. It is not freedom from all restraint. Your freedom does not mean you can intrude on someone else's freedom. There is responsibility that comes with your freedom. Freedom

has self imposed restrictions and restraints. A guarding and caring for the rights of others,

just as you would have others give to you.

2. Total freedom - utopia, nirvana, heaven, paradise, Canaan, Shangri-la, Zion, bliss, dreamland, ecstasy,

glory, happiness, harmony, utopia, wonderland, happy hunting ground. This cannot exist in this world

because of sin.

3. Different kinds of freedom - freedom from worry, freedom from pain, freedom from guilt. sorrow.

4. Freedom in the Bible (Jn. 8:31-32) comes from our accepting Jesus and His teachings..

C. In the news this week we see all kinds of methods where people are trying to find freedom

1. By Government groups trying to legislate morality, freedom, and equality.

a. The Jews tried to do this by their rules and laws that they passed for their nation and it didn't work

(Jn. 5:39-40; Mt. 23:5-6; 24-25).

b. Some current groups are trying to gain total freedom by setting up a utopia or paradise here on earth

(but that won't work either because of sin in the world today). This is in reaction to the death of

George Floyd. Everyone agrees that his horrific death was wrong. Jesus' word gives us insights as to

how we are supposed to treat others (Mt. 12:33-35; 15:1-2, 18-20).

c. Some are suggesting that if we adopt gross generalities it will solve all problems and bring about

peace (de-fund police, all whites are racist, all blacks are criminals, etc.). God's word speaks against

this kind of action and tells us how to treat others (Mt. 7:12). Jesus gave us an example to follow (Lk. 23:34; Isa. 53:5). God's word also says we can tell by their fruits (Mt. 7:20) and wisdom is justified by all her children (Lk. 7:35). This means if we watch people or groups over time we will see if they are right or not. There will be many that say they believe in him but don't really follow his teachings (Mt. 7:21-23).

2. In conclusion Freedom is not free

a. Poem Freedom is not free by Kelly Strong

b. Jesus paid the ultimate price to guarantee our freedom (Mt. 27:57; Isa. 53:12; Phil. 2:9; Jn. 5:39-40).

D. Questions to ponder in light of current events and Jn. 5:39-40).

1. Do you search the scriptures to find truth and freedom or just to back up what you want to believe?

2. Are you self-deceived into thinking you have something that you don't really have (i.e. like the Jews).

3. If you are interpreting the scriptures correctly they will point you to Jesus as a Savior from sin.

4. Are you willing to humble yourself to find the meek and lowly One?