

Doesn't God Just Want to
Take My Freedom?

John 8:31-36

THE TRUTH
WILL SET YOU
FREE

1). What *is* the 'truth that sets you free' ?

Freedom:

The right and ability to
do whatever you please.

Jesus tells us we be need to be set free:

Offensive to secular *and* religious ears.

It is not enough to simply believe Jesus' words.
To "know the truth" we must become students
committed to him personally.

Obedience 

Discipleship 

Knowledge 

Freedom

Jesus is the truth that sets us free

II). How can a person find maximum freedom?

Removing all restrictions?

Freedom is greater with boundaries.

Proper disciplines do not inhibit freedom,
they create it.

Negative Freedom:

“the absence of obstacles,
barriers or constraints.”

Positive Freedom:

“the ability to act in such a way as to take control of your life and realise your purpose.” *

*Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

To experience true freedom we must:

- i. Know the proper boundaries
- ii. Have the character to live them out

How can we know the ‘proper boundaries’ ?

PURPOSE

III). How Jesus Brings True Freedom

Sin:

Using good things God created
in ways he did not intend.

God does not want to hold us back from freedom.
He created us *for* freedom.

“God wants to hold you
back from the *good stuff*” *

* Satan's Lie

God's Image:

Perfectly Free

Perfectly Good

God intends to make us into the kind of people
that can freely do whatever we want.

But people of such good character that we
naturally desire what is *actually* best for us.

Jesus not only wants to free us **from** sin
but **for** abundant life

Our character must be changed

“We are Sons of Abraham”

Ishmael: Slave

Isaac: Free

Status of a Slave:

Based on performance.
Does not receive the inheritance.

Jesus changes our **being**
from **slave** to **son**

Status of a Son:

Based on identity,
Receives the inheritance by right.

Not only free *from* oppression
but free *for* the greatest joy in the universe:
intimacy with God.

THE ONLY GOOD THING
THAT NEVER
COMES TO AN
END

It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

C. S Lewis, *The Weight of Glory*