

Cultivating our Culture

Freedom FROM Or Freedom FOR?

Cultivating our Culture

Freedom FROM or freedom FOR:

Look at freedom from two angles:

- 1)How our current cultural moment defines freedom & how this definition plays out*
 - 2)How the Trinity defines freedom & how their definition plays out*
-

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Freedom FROM or freedom FOR:

1) How our current cultural moment defines freedom & how this definition plays out

a) *How the current culture defines freedom*

Chris Brogan, CEO of the Owner Media Group/business voice for personal leadership:

“The goal isn’t more money. The goal is living life on YOUR TERMS.”

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Freedom FROM or freedom FOR:

1) How our current cultural moment defines freedom & how this definition plays out

a) *How the current culture defines freedom*

Today’s freedom is actually defined as a freedom FROM...

- *Freedom from constraints*
 - *Freedom from rules*
 - *Freedom from opinions that don’t agree with yours*
 - *Freedom from obligation*
 - *Freedom to do with my body what I want to do*
-

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- a) *How the current culture defines freedom*
 - b) *How does the current cultural moment's definition play out?*
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Gen. 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

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Herein lies the problems with this thinking:

- i. *It leads to detachment*
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 - ii. *It assumes freedom from constraint is a reality when it is not*
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"the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint"

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"autonomy" = self-governing, freedom from external control or influence

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Modern freedom is the freedom of self-assertion:

"I am free if I can do what I want"

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The question isn't how can I attain complete freedom...

Bur rather WHICH freedom is more liberating

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David Foster Wallace – Postmodern novelist

“In the day to day trenches of adult life there is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship. & an astounding reason for choosing some sort of god or spiritual thing to worship is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money & things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life then you will never have enough. Worship your own body & beauty & sexual allure & you will always feel ugly & when time & age start showing you will die a million deaths before they finally plant you. Worship power & the commitment to make all your own choices] you will end up feeling weak & afraid & you will need ever more power over others to keep the fear at bay. Worship intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out.”

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Herein lies the problems with this thinking:

- i. *It leads to detachment*
 - ii. *It assumes freedom from constraint is a reality when it is not*
 - iii. *It removes the freedom of others*
-

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Freedom FROM or freedom FOR:

2) How the Trinity defines freedom & how their definition plays out

a) How does the Trinity define freedom?

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The Trinity defines freedom as freedom FOR:

➤ Freedom FOR others

➤ Freedom FOR God to direct us & lead us

➤ Freedom to move & breathe from your truest nature

➤ Freedom to admit we are not our own, do not control life & need someone who does

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Freedom FROM or freedom FOR:

2) How the Trinity defines freedom & how their definition plays out

a) How does the Trinity define freedom?

We are designed for surrendering

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John 15:15 No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

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Deut. 6:12 then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. [13] It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by His name you shall swear.

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Psalm 100:3a Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His;

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Psalm 100:3a Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His;

Eph. 6:5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, [6] not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,

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a) How does the Trinity define freedom?

b) How does the Trinity's definition play out?

i. *True freedom thru surrender leads to attachment*

I Peter 3:16 Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

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Gal. 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

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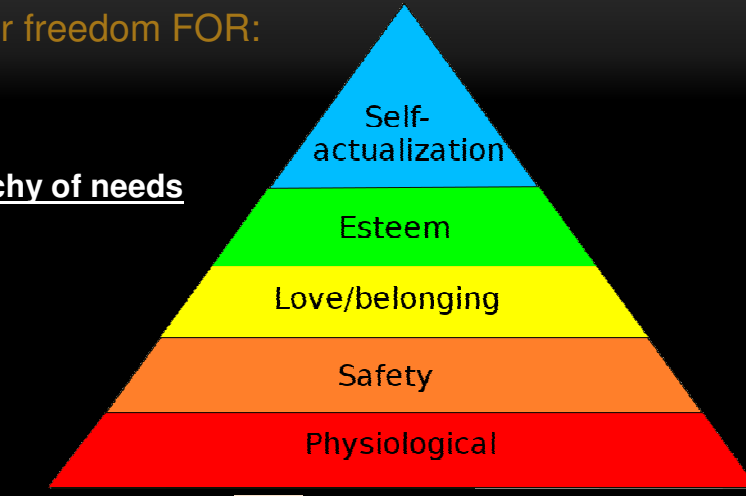
i. True freedom thru surrender leads to attachment

ii. True freedom leads to happiness & fulfillment & a sense of self

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Freedom FROM or freedom FOR:

Maslow's hierarchy of needs



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- ii. True freedom leads to happiness & fulfillment & a sense of self*

Alexander Solzhenitsyn – “After the Western ideal of unlimited freedom, after the Marxist concept of freedom as acceptance of the yoke of necessity – here is the true Christian definition of freedom: restriction of the self for the sake of others.”

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Tim Keller:

"If I am an accident I am free...but I am also meaningless with no real eternal purpose
But if I am created I have deep purpose but I am not really totally free"

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John 8:31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in Him, "If you abide (accept of act in accordance WITH) in My word, you are truly My disciples, [32] and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

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- b) How does the Trinity's definition play out?
 - i. *True freedom thru surrender leads to attachment*
 - ii. *True freedom leads to happiness & fulfillment & a sense of self*

What is the truth then?

- *That Jesus is God & you are not*
- *That He is the better Master*
- *That His goal is to treat us well & liberate us*
- *To be gracious to us beyond all measure*
- *In Jesus God is saying I will adjust to you*
- *& that you & I are not islands... we are made to surrender to another in love*